SUNDAY
December 21, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
28 Pages ₹ 8.00

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EVERGREEN SATIRIST

Malayalam actor-director Sreenivasan passes away

The renowned film icon, who made Kerala laugh, think, and remember, leaves an indelible mark on Mollywood

SOUTH » PAGE 8

Why does the BJP-led Union govt. want to replace MGNREGA?

FAQ » PAGE 14

U.S. military says it struck more than 70 IS targets inside Syria

WORLD » PAGE 16

Kishan returns to the Indian squad for T20 WC; Gill dropped

SPORT » PAGE 17

NEARBY

High command will call us at right time: DKS

BENGALURU
Hinting that the party high command had sent a message that a decision on change in leadership would be taken soon, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said it had been conveyed to both the Chief Minister and him that they would be "called [to Delhi] at an appropriate time". » PAGE 7

Horatti chairs proceedings for over 11 hours

HUBBALLI
Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti has created a record of sorts by chairing the session for over 11 hours on the concluding day of the Winter Session in Belagavi on Friday. » PAGE 7

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Rajdhani Express hits herd, 7 elephants killed in Assam

Jumbo tragedy: An earthmover is engaged in burying the carcasses of the wild elephants killed in the train accident in Hojai district of Assam on Saturday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Seven wild elephants were killed and a calf injured when the Mizoram-New Delhi Rajdhani Express hit a herd in central Assam's Hojai district early on Saturday.

The collision led to the derailment of the locomotive and five coaches of the Train no. 20507 Sairang Rajdhani Express in the Jamunamukh-Kampur section under the Lumding Division of the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). Railway officials said no passenger was injured.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said he had directed a probe into the incident. "I have directed the Forest Department to conduct a detailed enquiry on this deeply disturbing accident and take steps to further secure our wildlife corridors, particularly during low visibility seasons," he said.

The injured calf, a few days old, was rushed to the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation near the Kaziranga National Park. "The condition of the elephant is critical," Bhaskar Choudhury, the centre's veterinarian, said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

U.S. wants India's nuclear norms globally aligned

Document signed by Trump calls for establishing mechanism to 'assess implementation' of 2008 nuclear deal; Congress says PM Modi forced in SHANTI Bill to make peace with 'once good friend'

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Two days after Parliament cleared the SHANTI Bill, which allows private participation in India's nuclear sector and eases liability norms by capping operator liability for a nuclear incident to ₹3,000 crore, U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday signed into law the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) advising the Secretary of State to work with the Indian government and "...align (India's) domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms".

The NDAA, signed every fiscal, is a key law through which the U.S. decides the annual budget and expenditures of its Department of Defense. This financial year, considered from October 2025 to September 2026, a portion of the document says that the Secretary of State "... shall establish and maintain within the U.S.-India Strategic Security Dialogue, a joint consultative mechanism with the Indian government to assess the implementation of the 2008 Indo-U.S. nuclear deal" and "...align (India's) domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms".

The development comes after Parliament cleared the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Bill which repeals existing legislation governing nuclear activity. This was despite several appeals and a walkout by the Opposition in the Lok Sabha demanding that the Bill be referred to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny.

The Bill aligns India closer to the Vienna Convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and makes it consonant with the Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage. It is such an alignment that the NDAA 2026 encourages.

While the NDAA is presented every year in the U.S. and India found mention in it in previous years for defence and security matters, this is the only time, as per a perusal by *The Hindu*, at least since 2016, that India is specifically mentioned in the context of the 2008 nuclear agreement as well as "nuclear civil liability rules".

The Opposition, which had termed the SHANTI Bill "vendor-driven", slammed the Centre on Saturday over the U.S. law. "Now we know for sure why the Prime Minister bulldozed the Shanti Bill through Parliament earlier this week that, among other things, did away with key provisions of the CLND Act, 2010... It was to restore SHANTI with his once good friend," Congress Rajya Sabha MP Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

In the U.S. spotlight

SHANTI Bill eases India's nuclear liability norms by capping operator liability for a nuclear incident to ₹3,000 crore

REUTERS

- The **U.S. National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) annually authorises appropriations** for the Department of Defense (DOD) and nuclear weapons programmes of the Department of Energy
- This is the first time in about a decade that **India's nuclear liability rules find mention in the U.S. Act**
- SHANTI Act **aligns India's nuclear liability rules with international norms** — as the NDAA exhorts

Bangladesh on edge amid Hadi funeral

Rabiul Alam
DHAKA

Protests in Bangladesh continued for a third consecutive day on Saturday, with demonstrators demanding punishment for the killers of Sharif Osman Hadi, a prominent youth leader of the July 2024 uprising, even as his funeral was held under heavy security in capital Dhaka.

Political parties and rights groups warned that the continuing unrest could be exploited to derail the coming elections, scheduled for February 2026. Protesters have also renewed calls for the resignation of Home Affairs Adviser Lt. Gen. (retd.) Md. Jahangir Alam Chowdhury, whom they accuse of failing to ensure the arrest of the perpetrators more than a week after Hadi was shot on December 12. Thousands from across the country attended Hadi's funeral prayer on Saturday.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

CJI Bench to hold special vacation sitting tomorrow

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Special Vacation Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi will assemble on Monday to take up urgent matters for hearing in the Supreme Court.

The special sitting has been arranged to ensure timely consideration of pressing cases that require immediate intervention during the vacation period. The Supreme Court is closed for Christmas and New Year vacations from December 19 till January 5. Usually no judicial work is done during this period.

However, the Chief Justice has broken the rule amidst the phenomenal pendency rate. Chief Justice Kant made it clear during the initial days of his tenure as top judge that his biggest challenge would be to bring the almost 90,000-case pendency to a manageable number.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 9

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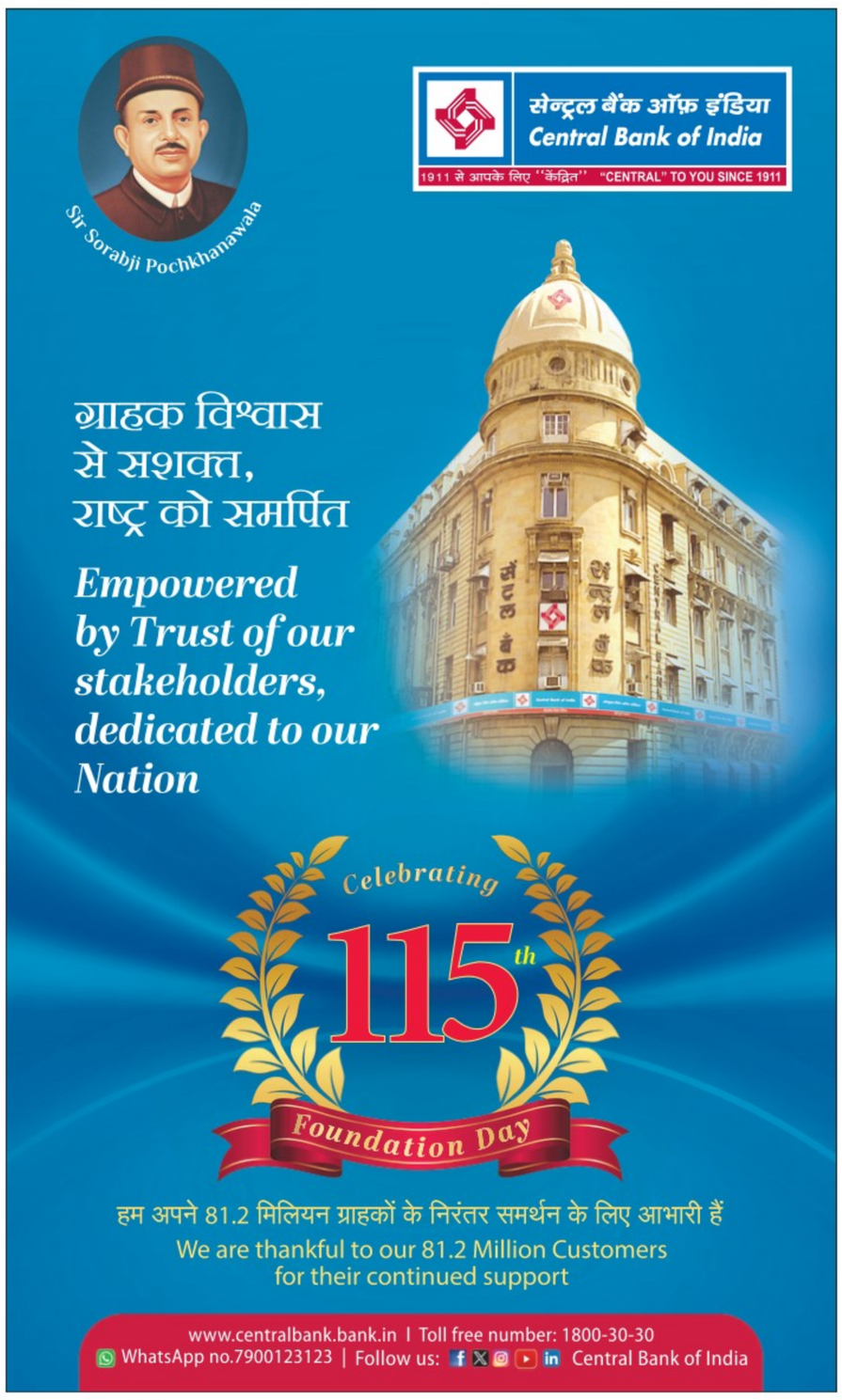

Hills at dawn: An early morning view of Dudran village in the Uri area, near the Line of Control in Baramulla district of north Kashmir.

Connected to land: A traditional flour mill operates on a stream in Dudran, showing the village's reliance on natural resources.

Wise ways: An elderly villager is hard at work in a traditional flour mill, using routines passed down generations.

Chilled by the hills: A villager places a utensil filled with milk inside a stone-and-wood structure locally known as *doud khot*, used as a natural refrigerator in Dudran.

Grounded in tradition, a Kashmiri village endures

Dudran is a quiet hilly village near the Line of Control, shaped by nature, tradition and resilience; despite long winters and isolation, life remains closely tied to the land, agriculture and livestock

Imran Nissar
imran.nissar@thehindu.co.in

Dudran is a quintessential hilly village located in the Uri area near the Line of Control in the Baramulla district of northern Kashmir. Situated about 100 km from the winter capital, Srinagar, the village is shaped by nature, tradition, and resilience. Surrounded by steep slopes, dense forests, and flowing streams, Dudran stands as a quiet settlement connected to the land it rests upon. Its remote location along the border adds both beauty and challenge to everyday life.

Traditional life in Dudran remains simple and community-centred. Villagers depend largely on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. Terraced fields carved into the mountainsides are used to grow pulses, corn, and, in some cases, seasonal vegetables. The residents also focus on dairy farming, with almost every household owning cattle for milk production. Fresh milk, butter, curd, and ghee are not only daily staples but also a source of income for many families.

Refrigeration in Dudran relies mostly on traditional and natural methods. In the absence of widespread modern appliances, villagers preserve food through drying, smoking, and storing it in cave-like stone and wooden structures built on the terraces of the hills, which act as natural refrigerators. On an average winter day, men can be seen chopping firewood and arranging haystacks while women transport firewood from nearby forests. Many women also process milk into butter and ghee using traditional manual churning methods to extend shelf life. During winter, snow and freezing temperatures act as natural refrigeration, keeping food fresh for long periods.

Winters in Dudran are long and severe. Heavy snowfall often isolates the village, making self-sufficiency essential. Homes are built with thick stone and wooden walls and thatched tin and mud roofs to protect against the cold. Families gather around traditional hearths, using firewood for warmth and cooking. Daily life slows, but social bonds grow stronger here as children connect the families together.

Despite isolation and uncertainty, the people of Dudran continue to preserve their traditions, sustain their dairy-based lifestyle, and remain deeply rooted in their homeland.

Learning tradition: A young girl stores milk in a *doud khot*, in a century-old practice still used in the village.

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Recoveries dip as scamsters change tack

With the New Year approaching, cybercrimes might mushroom in the name of attractive offers, cautions a senior officer

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This year has seen an evolution in the *modus operandi* of cybercrimes, with frauds being executed over several days and money siphoned off in multiple installments, preventing victims from reporting the crime within the golden hour.

Investigators said more new tactics can be expected in the coming year, as scamsters find different ways to evade detection.

The tactic of upgrading their *modus operandi* allows scammers to defraud victims of larger sums and buy more time to add multiple layers of mule accounts, which hampers investigations and slows down detection, according to the police.

Home Minister G. Parameshwara recently said in the legislature session that the money recovery percentage in cybercrime cases in Karnataka has dropped to 6.2% from 12.6% last year (2024). In 2023, the recovery percentage was 20.2%, according to the data.

An officer argues that although long-duration scams such as investment frauds have become common, OTP-related frauds remain relevant, especially those targeting senior citizens. K. MURALI KUMAR

Shivaling Salakki, programme manager at the Centre of Excellence in Cybersecurity by the Government of Karnataka (CySecK), noted that the State police should scale up detection in long-duration crimes. He also pointed to a dip in cases this year, although the total amount of money lost still matched last year's figures.

According to the data, Karnataka saw 22,255 cybercrime cases in 2023, with losses amounting to ₹873.29 crore. In 2024, the number rose to 22,478, with financial fraud totalling ₹2,562 crore. Till the end of November this year, 13,000 cases had been registered, with losses of ₹2,038 crore.

The officer attributed the trend to the extent of loss in each case, which has gone up significantly because of long-duration crimes and new methods, where detection and recovery chances are critically low. For instance, credit card scams involving the delivery of mobile phones saw a sudden spike in the first half of this year.

Fraudsters called potential victims claiming their profiles had been selected for a credit card and lured them with attractive offers. When the unsuspecting victims agreed, the fraudsters would send compromised mobile phones, claiming they needed to register through the device itself.

Bengaluru Southeast CEN police investigated one such case and found a single man behind 47 incidents.

"He had hired three delivery personnel to execute the job while operating from Surat. He would send compromised mobile phones to the delivery boys and instruct them on where to deliver them," an investigator told *The Hindu*. When the victim received the mobile phone and inserted their SIM card, the fraudster would immediately take control of the device, switch off Gmail passwords, and turn off all notifications from the banks.

Through multiple transactions, he would drain the victims' bank accounts, without the knowledge of the victim.

A senior officer cautioned that with the New Year approaching, such *modus operandi* are likely to mushroom again in the name of attractive offers.

The golden hour

An officer from the Criminal Investigation Department's Cybercrime Wing argued that although long-duration scams such as investment frauds have become common and cost victims crores of rupees, OTP-related frauds remain relevant, especially those targeting senior citizens. If such "immediate" frauds are reported on time, the chances of recovery are much higher.

For instance, the Bengaluru Central CEN police successfully recovered the entire amount lost by a senior citizen to credit card fraud last month.

A 70-year-old man from Vyalikaval received a call from an unknown person claiming to be an official from a private bank. The caller convinced the senior citizen that his credit card needed to be updated and obtained a series of OTPs. Using these, the fraudster siphoned off ₹1.90 lakh. The senior citizen realised the scam quickly and immediately called the helpline number 1930.

Akshay Hakay Machhindra, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Central, told *The Hindu* that swift communication with the banks helped freeze the account. "Within a week, we were able to claim the amount, and the victim got back the entire sum he had lost," he said.

Fact sheet

Year	Cases	Money lost (in crores)
2023	22,255	₹873.29
2024	22,478	₹2,562
2025 (till November)	13,000	₹2,038

Sub-inspector of police suspended over suspected ties to civil case accused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Multiple videos and photographs of the policeman celebrating a birthday with the accused and being seen in public while on duty went viral on social media

Sub-inspector Nagaraj of the Yelahanka New Town, has been suspended for having alleged links with an accused involved in multiple land disputes and civil cases.

Ramesh Banoth, Joint Commissioner (East Division), issued the suspension order on Friday. Nagaraj was allegedly part of the close circle of the accused Dasa.

Despite being aware of his background, Nagaraj was reportedly seen in public with Dasa. Multiple videos and photographs of the policeman celebrating a birthday with Dasa and being seen in public while on duty went viral on social media.

As the images circulated on social media and drew criticism, Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh ordered an inquiry headed by Mr. Banoth. The inquiry report by the Joint Commissioner reportedly established that the sub-inspector was in close association with Dasa.

Sources said while Dasa did not have cases in the city limits, he was involved in several cases, including mediating in civil disputes, in the Bengaluru Rural jurisdiction.

Nagaraj's 'friendship' with Dasa came to light amid repeated statements by Home Minister G. Parameshwara that the government would not tolerate the involvement of police officers in civil cases.

Director-General of Police M.A. Saleem has also warned officers against engaging in such matters.

With this suspension, the total number of officers suspended from duty this year has risen to 131.

Officials directed to step up preparedness to tackle anticipated rise in seasonal influenza cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With an anticipated rise in seasonal influenza cases from January 2026 to March 2026, the Health Department has directed all district officials to initiate preparedness and response measures to prevent complications and ensure timely treatment.

In an advisory issued following a communication from the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), New Delhi, district officials have been instructed to strengthen surveillance, ensure availability of medicines and equipment, and intensify public awareness activities ahead of the winter surge. Seasonal influenza is an infectious viral disease that spreads primarily through respiratory droplets or contact with contaminated surfaces.

While the illness is generally self-limiting and lasts five to seven days, health authorities cautioned that infants, the elderly, pregnant women, immunocompromised individuals and those on long-term medication, particularly steroids, face a higher risk of complications and may require hospitalisation.

Surveillance and testing

The district officials have also been asked to strengthen surveillance for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI). As per the guidelines, samples must be collected from at least 5% of ILI cases and 100% of SARI cases and sent to designated influenza laboratories for testing. All laboratories under the influenza surveillance network have been directed to ensure adequate availability of testing kits and timely processing of samples.

Instruction

Besides, health facilities at all levels have been instructed to maintain sufficient stocks of personal protective equipment, including N95 masks, and ensure uninterrupted availability of the antiviral drug oseltamivir in all prescribed dosages. The advisory has also recommended influenza vaccination for healthcare workers in high-risk groups and directed officials to ensure the availability of functional ventilators for the management of severe cases.

Campaigns

Public awareness campaigns on preventive measures, early symptom reporting and timely medical care should be intensified to ensure real-time reporting of cases through the IDSP/IHIP portal.

Officials have been directed to implement the measures immediately and conduct periodic reviews of preparedness and case trends.

Golden hue

On a misty December morning, as dawn unfurls its golden veil, vehicles glide through on NICE Road, between Hosur and Mysuru corridors, in Bengaluru. The city breathes a hush of winter, cloaked in serene chill. K. MURALI KUMAR

E-khata melas planned in large apartment complexes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The North City Corporation will organise e-khata melas in large residential apartment complexes in its jurisdiction, provided at least 100 complete applications with required documents are submitted, Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said on Saturday.

Addressing a meeting with representatives of such complexes in Yelahanka, Mr. Kumar discussed issues related to e-khata issuance. He said that based on requests raised by apartment representatives, office-bearers of apartment associations in all sub-divisions should coordinate with owners to prepare a minimum of 100 applications along with the necessary documents.

Once the applications are ready, a date would be finalised in consultation with corporation officials, following which e-khata melas would be conducted and khatas would be issued, the Commissioner said.

Film city proposed at Kalaburagi and Hubballi

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

In a major push for the Kannada film industry and the promotion of the regional language, Mahaboob Pasha, chairman of Sri Kanteerava Studios Limited, announced a proposal to establish Film Cities in Kalaburagi and Hubballi.

Addressing a press conference in Kalaburagi on Saturday, Mr. Pasha revealed that a formal request had been submitted to the Kalaburagi district administration for the allotment of at least 50 acres of land for establishing a film city. He expressed confidence in the project's progress, noting that Deputy Commissioner B. Fouzia Taranum had responded positively to the proposal.

The envisioned film cities in Kalaburagi and Hubballi are intended to be smaller-scale models of the iconic Sri Kanteerava Studios in Bengaluru. According to Mr. Pasha, the primary objective was to provide a dedicated platform for local talent. Mr. Pasha said that the authorities were also planning to establish film studios in Vijayanagara, Chitradurga, and Shivamogga to ensure a wider reach across the State.

Mahaboob Pasha announced that the State's own Over-the-Top platform is set to be launched by the end of January or in the first week of February 2026.

> A formal request has been submitted to the Kalaburagi district administration for the allotment of at least 50 acres of land for establishing a film city
>
> **MAHABOOB PASHA**
> Chairman of Sri Kanteerava Studios Limited

Mr. Pasha highlighted that, beyond nurturing artists, the establishment of the film hubs would significantly boost local trade, encourage tourism, and play a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the Kannada language.

Govt. OTT Platform

In another significant development for the industry, Mr. Pasha announced that the State's own Over-the-Top (OTT) platform was set to be launched by the end of January or in the first week of February 2026. The initiative, which was declared in the 2025-26 budget, aims to provide a global stage for local art, literature-based cinema, and short films, he said.

"With this launch, Karnataka will become the third entity in India to operate a government-backed OTT platform, following the footsteps of Kerala and the Union government. Several high-level meetings have been conducted to finalise the technicalities of the platform," Mr. Pasha said.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Pasha met with Ms. Taranum to formally submit a memorandum requesting the sanction of 50 acres of land for the Kalaburagi Film City project.

Elderly man killed after being hit by SUV near HAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An elderly man was killed after being hit by an SUV on HAL Airport Road on Friday night.

The deceased has been identified as Jayapal, 60, a resident of HAL who worked as a housekeeping staff at HAL. The incident occurred on Friday around 11 p.m. when Jayapal was crossing the road, a short distance from the UR Rao Satellite Centre in east Bengaluru.

An SUV heading towards the Marathahalli bridge from the Domlur side knocked down Jayapal. He was flung some distance due to the impact and fell down leading to severe head injuries. He succumbed later.

Police said the driver did not stop the vehicle immediately. She drove some distance, halted briefly, and then proceeded directly to a nearby traffic police station. The Jeevan Bima Nagar police have registered a case under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) section pertaining to causing death by a rash or negligent act.

CPI(M) to hold convention today after Statewide outreach campaign

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Party organised the campaign to apprise people of the anti-people laws prevailing in the country and the State

The CPI(M) will host a convention at Freedom Park in Bengaluru to mark the conclusion of the Janadani rally on Sunday.

It launched a Statewide campaign against 'anti-people laws' in the country, as well as in the State, emphasising the need for a pro-people political front.

About 1,100 teams had been formed by the CPI (M), which travelled across the State, covering more than five lakh households between November 1 and December 15. The campaign was titled 'Paryaya Rajakaaranakke Janadani Rally'.

Prakash K., secretary of the CPI(M), told *The Hindu* that the CPI(M) organised the campaign to apprise people of the anti-people laws prevailing in the country and the State and their impact on ordinary citizens.

"Although two national parties have different agendas, their law-making structures are similar and cater to the rich and capitalists. To oppose and counter such anti-people measures taken by ruling parties, we launched this campaign," he said.

Members of the teams went door-to-door across the State, informing people about prevailing issues and pro-capitalistic laws across sectors. The topics covered ranged from unemployment and corruption to education, health, privatisation, and more. The teams also explained the need for reforms in agriculture, land and farmers' rights, the ration system, unconstitutional laws, and irrigation systems.

While emphasising the need for reforms, the CPI (M) teams presented data to households and explained the severity of the issues, said Mr. Prakash.

Customs officials foil hydro ganja smuggling at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In separate incidents, Customs officials at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) seized 7.19 kg of hydro ganja from two passengers arriving from Bangkok, Thailand, over two days.

Check-in baggage

On Saturday, the officials intercepted a passenger and seized 7.18 kg of hydro ganja, valued at ₹2.51 crore, concealed in a check-in baggage. The accused was arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

On Friday, the officials intercepted another passenger arriving from Bangkok and seized 860 gm of hydro ganja, valued at ₹30.10 lakh, also concealed in a check-in baggage.

Probe under way

The officials said that further investigations are under way to determine the travel details of the accused and the source of the contraband.

Daily passage: A shepherd keeps his flock safe in Dudran's rough terrain, underscoring the role of livestock in village life.

Saving for a cold day: A villager stacks hay for cattle-feed, in preparation for the long and severe winter.

Steady pace: Women and children go about their daily chores, a part of Dudran's simple, community-centred life.

Slow but sure: A villager makes butter by manually churning milk, a traditional method used to extend its shelf life.

Social bonds: Children peek from a corner of their traditional home; bonds grow stronger in Dudran when children connect the families.

Over 150 families left homeless after demolition drive

Ayush Rokade
BENGALURU

The demolition drive in progress at Kogilu Layout in Yelahanka on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

More than 150 families were left homeless after the civic authorities carried out a demolition drive at Kogilu Layout in Yelahanka early on Saturday, stating that the houses encroached upon government land earmarked for solid waste management projects.

Residents said the drive started around 4 a.m., when earthmovers arrived and people were asked to vacate immediately. Many alleged they were not given enough time to collect their belongings or important documents.

"They came with the equipment and told us to vacate the houses. We were not even given time to take our documents," said Jaitun Bi, an elderly woman whose house was among those demolished.

"Some people came and woke up the men and asked them to wake their families before demolishing all the houses. After the drive, the families, including pregnant women and children, are now staying in a nearby government school playground," said Shazia A., adding that they tried reaching MLA Krishna Byre Gowda, but he refused to listen to their concerns.

Another resident, Syed Mustafa, said electricity supply to the area was cut three days ago. "We have Aadhaar cards, voter IDs, ration cards and even electricity bills that carry this address.

We have been living here for 30 years. How can we be evicted without any prior notice?" he asked. According to residents, more than 100 families have been living in the settlement - Waseem Layout and Fakir Colony, for over 30 years, depending largely on seeking alms or other informal work for their livelihood. With their shelters demolished, families were seen sitting in the open, unsure of where to go or how to manage during the cold nights.

Members of Dhudiyuva Janara Vedike, a forum of working people, arranged food for the displaced families. The members demanded that the government make immediate arrangements for shelter, provide permanent housing under the Rajiv Gandhi Housing Scheme, and compensate families for the loss of their homes.

Encroachment

In an official release, the Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) said the demolition drive was conducted to clear encroachments on government land. BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda said around five acres of land near Kogilu Bande, earmarked for the BSWML projects, had been illegally occupied.

"The land forms part of Survey No. 99 of Kogilu village in Yelahanka Hobli, which measures a total of 14 acres and 36 guntas. The BSWML plans to develop facilities on the site, including a bio-methanation plant, animal rendering and incineration units, a tender coconut waste processing unit and a sanitary waste processing facility," the official said.

According to the BSWML, more than 150 unauthorised temporary sheds and houses had come up on the encroached portion of land.

The drive was carried out with police protection.

The BSWML said the guidance value of the reclaimed land is around ₹15 crore, while the current market value was estimated at nearly ₹80 crore, adding that the land would now be used for the proposed solid waste management projects.

Karnataka tops FASTag penalty collections in 2024-25

The State has collected ₹129.91 crore from motorists who either did not use FASTag or whose tags were invalid

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Karnataka has emerged as the highest collector of FASTag-related penalties in the country during the 2024-25 financial year, according to data on double user fees by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The State collected ₹129.91 crore from motorists who either did not use FASTag or whose tags were invalid or non-functional at toll plazas.

Maharashtra followed Karnataka with a penalty collection of ₹110.64 crore, while Uttar Pradesh stood third with ₹81.06 crore. Other major States that reported high collections include Gujarat (₹78.59 crore), Tamil Nadu (₹71.82 crore), Haryana (₹71.67 crore), and Rajasthan (₹62.35 crore).

Under existing rules, all lanes at toll plazas were declared FASTag lanes with effect from midnight of February 15, 2021. Since then, vehicles not fitted with a valid and functional FASTag are required to pay a fee equivalent to twice the applicable toll for their vehicle category. An official of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) said the high penalty figures do not necessarily indicate willful refusal by motorists to adopt FASTag. "In most cases, double user fee collection happens due to practical issues such as insufficient balance, damaged or improperly affixed tags, blacklisted FASTags, or users being unaware that their tags have become inactive," a senior official told *The Hindu*.

Maharashtra followed Karnataka with a penalty collection of ₹110.64 crore, while Uttar Pradesh stood third with ₹81.06 crore. FILE PHOTO

Top five States in penalty collections

- Karnataka- ₹129,91,72,480
- Maharashtra ₹110,64,69,570
- Uttar Pradesh- ₹81,06,66,655
- Gujarat- ₹78,58,99,385
- Tamil Nadu- ₹71,82,33,400

Source: Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

He said that highway users are repeatedly advised to ensure that their FASTag is valid, properly fixed on the windscreen, and adequately recharged before entering toll plazas. In a move aimed at easing the burden on non-FASTag users while still nudging them towards digital payments, the Centre announced a partial relaxation in October.

'Highway users are repeatedly advised to ensure that their FASTag is valid'

From November 15, 2025, motorists without FASTag who choose to pay tolls using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) are eligible for a discounted penalty. The Union government amended the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, to allow such users to be charged 1.25 times the applicable user fee instead of double the toll amount levied on cash payments.

Apart from this, the Centre introduced the FASTag Annual Pass on August 15, 2025, aimed at reducing the financial burden on frequent users of national highways.

The scheme allows owners of non-commercial vehicles, including cars, jeeps and vans, to purchase an annual pass priced at ₹3,000.

The pass is valid for 200 toll crossings or one year, whichever is earlier, and can be used at all toll plazas operated by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI).

The annual pass can be obtained through the Rajmargyatra app or the NHAI website, and becomes active within two hours of a one-time payment. According to the NHAI officials, the initiative is intended to offer a seamless, cashless and cost-effective option for private motorists, while reducing the need for frequent FASTag recharges.

Circle-Level Pension Adalat on January 20

BENGALURU: The Office of the Chief Postmaster General, Karnataka Circle, will conduct a Circle-Level Pension Adalat on January 20, 2026, at Palace Road, Bengaluru. It aims to address unresolved pension-related grievances of pensioners and family pensioners who retired from the Department of Posts, Karnataka Circle. Grievances must be submitted by January 5, 2026.

Technical fault disrupts Yellow Line metro services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Metro services on the Yellow Line experienced delays on Saturday evening after a technical issue was reported in one of the trains, officials of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) said.

'Less impact'

According to the BMRCL, the disruption began around 4.45 p.m., when a train on the Yellow Line developed a technical snag. Following the incident, services on the corridor were operated at a reduced frequency of around 19 minutes instead of the scheduled 15 minutes, resulting in longer waiting time for commuters at stations along the stretch. Several passengers were seen waiting for extended periods on platforms as trains arrived less frequently. However, officials said the impact was relatively limited as passenger footfall on the Yellow Line was lower compared to weekdays.

In an initial statement, the BMRCL said its technical teams were attending to the issue and efforts were under way to restore normal services at the earliest.

"Our teams are actively working to resume normal operations shortly," the BMRCL said in a release issued in the evening.

Not inducted

However, the officials later in the night confirmed that the affected train could not be inducted back into service on Saturday. As a result, the revised frequency continued for the remainder of the day.

Power shutdown

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be scheduled power outages in several parts of Bengaluru due to maintenance work on Monday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The affected locations include Devarabeesanahalli and Village, Doddakallanahalli Road, Gear School Road, and surrounding areas. Additionally, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., power supply will be disrupted in parts of Doddakallasandra, Kanakapura Main Road, Narayana Nagar 3rd Block, Munireddy Layout, Jyothi Layout, and surrounding areas.

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COSMOPOLITAN

ATTRACTIVE, TALENTED 35, well–educated professional (LSR; UK Master's). Seeks compatible groom. Religion/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

DIVORCEE

MUSLIM female Good looking, 42, no kids, Govt Group–A officer, own house, well settled in Chennai, seeks kind, respectable, good looking Muslim groom, age 42–50, divorcee/widower, with/without kids, Govt officer/Bank official/Professional, settled in Chennai. Lang no bar. Call/WA: 9042310136

BEAUTIFUL, SINCERE 29, well–educated professional (MNC). Loving, cultured family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Seeks Bride Groom (divorcee/widower) aged between 35-39 years (Engineer, Lecturer, Bank Officer) for Hindu Tamil Vanniyar 34 years Doctor MD DM Divorcee with Female Child, only daughter of doctor parents.

Parents of suitable and genuine person can send the horoscope with personal details.

Ct: 9486409171

FINANCE / BANKING

SC, AD, Bank Employee, Age: 32, Triupathi. Wanted Bank Employee or Government Employee. Ct: 90001 80420

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Intercaste Parents seek suitable Alliance for their Daughter D/B 25-3-95, 165 cm, IPS Officer Odisha Cadre from Parents of Civil Service Officers, Doctors, Judicial Officers or any other Group A Officers. Contact: 9447186098 & 9747823111.

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR M.D. Christ Centered Good looking 36 years working girl Seeks proposals from god fearing Doctors, Engineers, Professionals 9444777290 / 8095119222

HINDU NADAR, 25, MBBS MD, 165, v fair, Hospital owner, seeks PG Doctor Multi millionaire family. Contact : 9940119844

M.S. SURGEON 28, BC Tall Fair Good Looking Seeks Suitable Doctors from Well Educated Broadminded Background.Caste no bar. Contact. 7200365364

Fair, Cultured, Good Looking, Slim, Doctor Girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based doctor family Father Keralite Nair Mother from Tamilnadu. Looking for Doctor groom or Engineer from respectable family.

98400 50381 / 98409 85383

TELUGU Yadava 24yrs doctor bride Chennai based seeks PG doctor groom. Same Caste. Ph:9840632739

DKV 29 Years Lady Radiologist, Divorced Well settled family in Chennai. Caste no bar. Phone: 8668118358

MD General Medicine Doctor girl working in Chennai 32/156seeks suitable alliance 9447493034 /9497168001

MALAYALAM

EZHAVA, ADVOCATE and partner of a legal firm, aged 26 years, Pooradam slight Papam, ht. 167 cm, belongs to a educated Ezhava family, parents professionals. Legal background also preferred. Ph: 9946226326, 9497071326.

HINDU-VISWAKARMA PARENTS seeks suitable alliance for daughter, 27 yrs, MBBS, pursuing MD, height 157 cms, well-cultured and family-oriented, seeking PG Doctors/ Engineers/ Other Professionals Hindu grooms of age group 27-32. Caste No Bar. Never married. Alliance from respectable families preferred. Contact: ptsukumar@gmail.com.

HINDU EZHAVA 26/162cm Pooradam Kerala, B.com/MBA,Finance, Job in US–based company, Chennai (Settled) Alliance from Professionals–9600984848

HINDU NAIR girl (1/3/2002, 5:15 am, Uthram), Trivandrum, Kerala, studying MBA at Melbourne, Australia and also working in logistics company. Preferring NRI's Also without horoscope. Ph: 9526364446.

TAMIL

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, Catholic, 1993 borned, HR professional–MNC , with null and void order looking for Christian boy below 35 yrs, premier institute or IT professional with legal, church orders with clean habits, WhatsAp 9443124608

RELIGIOUS PROTESTANT Christian well placed Groom for beautiful fair Christian Nadar Girl 31 MNC 15L/pa, Chennai. 9840345969 Brokers excuse

CSI NADAR Bride 35 yr 175 cm ME, Govt Bank Officer Nagercoil seeks good job graduate groom any BC/FC caste. Whatsapp: 94425 71413

CHRISTIAN, 26, Gulf, ACCA, royale, business. Ph: 8138900312

CHRISTIAN – AD, Govt Doctor Age – 32 Seeks Suitable Doctor, Engineer, Govt.Officer Groom. Ct :90929 62442

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar, 28yrs, MBBS, MS, well educated family, Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

BANGALORE BASED CSI Christian Nadar girl from upper middle class family – fair, slim, 5ft 6inches, divorced, 41, no kids. BE, MBA. Working with MNC, earning over 40 LPA. Seeking professionally qualified, god fearing Christian groom, below 45, no kids, from established family. Caste, language no bar. Contact mother on +918296019442/ mozartscadence@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN, PILLAI, 36,M.Sc.,M Phil., Asst.Prof. Pondy,Seeks Groom FC/BC, below 39 yrs. Ct: 98946-77892.

CSI NADAR 29/178cm USA MS Seeks CSI Nadar Groom from USA 9944885050.

WANTED BRIDEGROOM, second marriage. Age 28 yrs, 5'6", Muslim. Native: Tirunelveli. Location: Urapakkam, Chennai. Ct: 7871393304.

BORN AGAIN Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CANADIAN CITIZEN Christian Bride 29 yrs, 159cm, is looking for God Fearing, Family Oriented, Canadian or American Citizen. Age 30–35, Professional, have Biblical values and Faith. Email Profile and Photo to rvjplanning@gmail.com 9677181606

36/154CMS CHRISTAN girl Born Again SC AD/ M.Ed/ Working in Chennai 25Kpm/ Own house seeks suitable groom below 40 yrs. Ct: 7339432540

HINDU MUDALIAR, Age 30, 167cm Fair & Charming Working in MNC, Seeks Working Boy from Mudaliar / Pillai / Soliya Vellalar Caste.Ct 9444149262

SAIVA PILLAI girl, 25 BE(CSc) wkg in MNC as Software Engineer. Parents invite proposals from educated, respectable and strict vegetarian families of same caste. BE/ Btech Software Engineer groom, from same profession and settled in Bangalore preferred. Share details sk_pillai@outlook.com 6364789344

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR 165cm 28yr Fair Advocate in Chennai, Doing CA, Prefer Doctor. Mail: itpleaseyou@gmail.com

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, M.sc (UK), Elite business family. Contact: 9380791999/ 9841329471

BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Seeks Bridegroom (unmarried), 1984-1989 born, Educated, Good looking Groom (Reputed Business in Tamilnadu) for Hindu Tamil Chettiar traditional girl(unmarried), 1989 born Hastham Kanni Rasi, daughter of reputed Jewellery business family in Tamilnadu. Suitable alliance can send details along with horoscope

WA: 94421 10063

GROOM WANTED

PILLAI / ISAIVELLALAR, 27/167 cm, MBBS, doing MD from well settled family seeks professionally qualified Groom from Chennai. Doctors (MD and above).

Ct: 9443255479

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Tamil Maruthuvar, BBA, LLB(Hons), 24 years, 155cm, Very Fair, Good Looking, Working in Corporate, Parents State Government Officers, Looking for well Qualified Professionals with Good Family Background, Same Caste Contact with Horoscope, Photo/Profile

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9841262160

BRIDE GROOM WANTED

Hindu Nadar, 25 yrs, 157 cm, M.Sc., Ph.D (Mathematics) Kadagam, Punarpoosam Kanyakumari Dist Settled in Chennai.
SEEKS SUITABLE GROOM FROM Ph.D / M.E / M.Tech and equivalent qualified Height : 165 cm - 175 cm Age : 27 to 30 yrs

9444384300
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WhatsApp/call-Dad:
9962331777

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED CNB, 30yrs, MBBS, MD (US), Working in US, Well Educated Family in Chennai Contact:6385293227

SENGUNTHAR 31/162 BE, MBA working in MNC, Chennai seeks suitable match. Subcaste no bar. Ct: 7200988849

SEEKING NEVER Married Tamil/Telugu Groom age (43–44)working in Chennai/US for Naidu Bride–SWE. Yamini.hari@gmail.com/ 9445270312/ 9962805093

RICH MUDALIYAR, 31yrs B.Tech,MBA, Industrial background in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont: 6385293227

VANIYA CHETTIAR, 46/157, Rohini, M.Sc., TNGFS Department Officer. seeks equally Qualified Employed Groom. Contact: 94452 07116

MUDALIAR 25/165, Fair, Beautiful, MBBS,MS, 2400000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

HINDU, 33, castenobar, NRI, BE, 10 crores, 7356483111

Hindu, 30, pillai, B.tech, 10 crores, 8137003550

HINDU, 28, caste nobar, ME, 50 lakhs, 9072777822

HINDU, 28, Mudaliyar, BE, 20crores, 8138009235, VIP

BRIDES WANTED

BENGALI

Bengali Boy 27 Years / LPA 21 seeks Educated Smart Bong Girl (M) Contact - 9839187701.

COSMOPOLITAN

BANGALORE BASED unmarried Kannada Smartha brahmin boy DOB Mar 1979. BE working MNC as senior HR exec with 1 Cr annual salary seeks educated Hindu upper caste single girl below 43 willing to settle in Bangalore. contact 9980206008

DM– DOCTOR (Tamil, Dec91, 185 cm, Kongu Vellalar, Hastham, affluent) , wkg in Bangalore, seeks a tall, v.fair, virtuous PG Doctor / non medico bride.(28–31 years) Any language / FC–BC castes. Parents:93425–29547 / 9072118800

WANTED AN educated and professionally qualified bride with strong Protestant Christian upbringing and values for our son NZ citizen 34/180 MNC Post Graduate Engineer in Melbourne, Australia. Bride should be resident in Australia. Region/Language/Caste/Denomination No bar. Please email sundaresanpaul@gmail.com or call +64 212 515 040.

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

KANNADA

Lingayat Boy 42 Yrs/ 178 cm/ Businessman/ Income 5 cr and Above / looking for match - (080-69072058)

MALAYALAM

Hindu Nadar Boy, Trivandrum, 33/181, Thrikketta, PhD Computer Science from Australia (thesis submitted) seeks alliance from any educated Hindu Family. Contact: 7012888675

NRI

SMART, MATURE 27, 178cm, ambitious EU–based professional (double Master's). Affluent Christian family. Seeks compatible bride. Community/ language no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

SM4 WELL settled Brahmin Boy Moolam/Kaushika never married, 45/ 171cm, MBA (Germany), Wrkg in leading airline Frankfurt, Germany. Open for any Hindu fmly, Veg Ok. Girl must be willing to relocate to Germany. Mob/WhatsApp: 9042702736

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MUDALIYAR, 28, 178 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Bangalore. Business Class Family. Looking for a like minded match from any community. Contact: 6366448344

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NADAR, 29, 168 cms, B.Arch, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

MUDALIYAR, 27, 163 cms, BE, Software Professional. Looking for a like minded match from well settled family from any location. Contact: 6366448343

MUDALIYAR, 34, 168 cms, BE. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Film Distributor. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 31, 163 cms, M. Arch, Professor. Looking for a like minded professional or business background match from well settled family from similar community in Chennai. Contact: 6366448343

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TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 29, ME, 50 lakhs, VIP, 8137003549

HINDU, 33, divorced, caste no bar, Gulf, 20 lakhs, MPhil. Ph: 8137003550

HINDU, 27, Yadava, Govt, 30 lakhs. Ph: 8138901281

HINDU, 32, Chettiar, MS, USA. Ph: 8138900487

HINDU, 35, divorced, MBA, private, 58 lakhs, expecting Level 1, Govt. Job. Ph: 8138009235

HINDU SC(AD) 27/158 Beautiful MSc Psychology Daughter of Executive Director NLCIL (Retd) Seeks well Employed Groom Ct:9443289673/ 9443074657

DKV 33YRS Fair B.Tech MBA IIT Working MNC 24 Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Match CNB Ph: 9940507235

Mudhaliar Remarriage 30 Bcom MBA 4yrs Girl baby Chennai Seeks Chennai Groom CNB Geetham 98848 58014

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BOY 34 yrs MBA well settled in pharma industry, seeking Graduate girl from Bangalore 9353940454

Arya Vysya, Caste no bar. 30, 178, Software 45 LPA, well-settled Seeking a middle-class girl. Ph: 8555072557.

DIVORCEE

THOUGHTFUL, SUCCESSFUL 48, 180cm, well–educated, US–based professional. Seeks compatible bride. Caste/ language no bar. Call/WA 9345 634 365

DOCTOR

SEEKS GOOD Looking Doctor Bride, for a MBBS, MD, General Medicine Doctor (RC, Christian, Nadar, Age 28) working in Chettinad Health City, Chennai. Contact: Parents–9500085244

Christian Boy 33 Years/ MBBS / MD/ Doctor is looking for a Match, Contact: (9940571018)

Christian Boy 36 Years / MBBS / Surgeon / Bangalore resident looking suitable Match - (080-69072058)

NRI

CANADA BASED Groom 29 Years, 180 cm, Hindu, Kanni Rasi, Hastham MBA (CPA), Financial Analyst – Govt.of Canada, PR (Citizen) Seeks Good Natured, Professionally qualified Hindu Bride (Preferably CA/ICWA) willing to settle in Canada Contact: WhatsApp Call or Message: 8925070777 Mail id: terra1531@gmail.com

SINDHI

SINDHI BOY 30 yrs, 5'6", wheatish, MS IITM, Software Eng, employed in MNC BLR, looking for employed Hindu girl, WA: 9460174652

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN 39 years engineer working in MNC+BUSINESS well settled at chennai wanted a graduate girl from a decent Christian family–cont 9884825317

CHRISTIAN, 28, MBA, Private, expecting good looking bride. Ph: 8138900412

CHRISTIAN, 37, BMM, MNC, 50 lakhs.Ph: 8138900470

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN DOCTOR, 39/169, M.D Paediatric, Neonatologist, profession in Trivandrum, Fair, Handsome, Divorce - No Kids, seeks fair, Doctor/Non Medico Bride, age 30 to 35, preferably South India, Caste no bar, Contact: 86100 20066, 94433 26119

Graduate, 47 yrs, Divorcee, Christian, BC, Chennai, Private sector, 1.00 lakh p.m. Contact 9566197522.

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC 1973 born 165cm MA MBA divorce manager Govt. 1.1 Lpm seeks any bride ct: 8148842983

CHRISTIAN B.E. MBA (NIT& IIM)29 years well Placed boy Seeks Proposals From God Fearing Employed Girls Contact: 9444777290 / 7397049611

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT–9500188067

CHRISTIAN NADAR 1st Marriage 53/ 174 MPhil GovtOficer 30L & 52/170 PhD Prof House@Chennai. Seek upto 45 FC/BC Educate Professional 9444032498

CHRISTIAN, Born again, NRI, VVIP, 100 Crores, 8138900316,

PILLAI 44 Divorcee M.Com Central Govt service Rs.13.50 lakhs PA seeks bride caste no bar 9094020665

VANNIYAR 39/180 Revathy, BSc, MSc, Phd., pursuing. Professor/Digital Marketing & Running Own Office, 15 LPA seeks educated Bride. 9840044473

✔ **MUDALIAR THIRUVADURAI Mithunam rich&affluent slim fair&handsome 6.1 Sep–95 boy BE CSE Sr Dev 18LPA Wipro, seeks well–educated slim fair good character Girl, doing job or not doesnt matter, fr well–settled family Ct/WA 94432 28917**

SC AD Age 26, B.Tech, M.Tech, AI–ML Engineer in US–based Company, Hyd, Well–Settled boy, Seeking Suitable Employed Bride, Ct: 9344005479

BRIDE WANTED CNB, 37yrs, M.Tech, Affluent and Industrial background in Chennai. Contact: 6385293227

FOR 31 yrs M.Tech working in infosys Chennai Mahindra city Reddiyar Rahu Kethu Dosham. Contact 9444141613/ 8637491812

HINDU, 31, caste no bar, business, Royal family, 50 crores. Ph: 7356483111

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian, Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

DKV 36YRS B.Tech Manager working in PSU Bank 18Lac PA Chennai Seeking Suitable Bride. CNB.Ct: 9940507235

HINDU–BE/SWE/172/34/25LPA/AYILLAM–KATAGAM .SETTLED in Bangalore, educated and financially stable. Seeking Bride from educated and decent family. Con 9845401461.

GAVARA/BALIJA NAIDU, 26yrs, 173 cm, slim, fair, B.Tech, Simma Rasi–Uthiram. Software–employed and in family business; income 30L p.a. Affluent export–import Business, Chennai. Seeking well–educated, good–looking bride. Ct: 79048 43 429

NADAR, 37 / 14.4 lakhs pa. Divorcee, no kids, M.E.Phd. Proff. Engg College, Chennai. seeks suitable bride. caste, religion no bar. Ct: 94432 69548

CNB NAIDU BDS MBA (UK) 1981, working as CEO in Blr Hospital with good assets seeks any PQ Bride Dr./Engr/ IT/ Nurse from good Family. V.J.Naidu 9886782390/ 9962246305.

HINDU NADAR, 34yrs/180cm, Kettai, Viruchigam, Diploma, Jewellery shop Tuticorin seeks graduated Bride. Ct: 9791951823

MUDALIYAR 36Y BE/LLB 170cm, 14 Lacs, well and settled family little vitiligo seeks bride. Ct: 94452 42964

NAIDU (GAVARA), 34, BE., Sadhayam Kumbam, Working in Pvt.Bank, Coimbatore, Rs.9/LPA, Native: Srivilliputhur, Subsect No Bar, seeks suitable Bride. Ct: 99401 86888, 98403 80503

TAMIL

Mudaliar 30, BE MBA 177cm 28Lacs PA smart look well settled family seeks Bride CNB.8778514465 /7200866346

PARENTS INVITE suitably qualified, 26-28 yrs, family loving Tamil Hindu brides, for Pune based Tamil groom, 31 yrs, Prof in Pharmacy and Research Scholar with own houses. Contact Mr. Sukumar N. 9422028059

MUDALIAR/PILLAI DIVORCEE (No Kids) BE MBA 32/163 Group 1 Officer working in Coimbatore, Preferably from same community seeking Graduate Girl Divorcee/First Marriage. CT: 94868 53954.

TAMIL 45 B.E 9994351766 Carleton Nadar https://ingeniousdesigntech.com IISc https://tamilfilmmakerspro.com

SOZHIYA VELLALAR Pillai, 35, BE (CSE), Software Engineer from Coimbatore, seeks a bride aged 28–33 with a graduate qualification. All stars welcome except Aswini, Magham, Ayilyam, Kettai, and Moolam. Any Hindu community. Contact: +91–9940649141

1984 BORN, MCA, Coimbatore Settled, Garments Export Business, Looking for House Wife/Home Maker to be in a Joint Family. Education/ Wealth not Important.Matrimony Agents Excuse, Ct 9489603438

HINDU MUDALIAR 38, Fair, 168cm, BE MBA, Technical Manager (IT), 21 LPA, Chennai Seeks Any professional. Caste no bar. Ct: 9786849351

WELL Settled Tamil based Intercaste (SC+Brahmin) Dr Couple, looking for suitable Bride for their Son 32 Yrs (Ragu-Kethu) Dr MD Pathology KMCH, Cbe. Mob: 9842221324, 9894186469.

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar, 28yrs, BE,M.sc (UK), 5lakhs pm, Elite business family Ct:9841329471/ 9380791999

SC (AD), 30yrs, B.Tech, Very Well Educated Family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Bride Contact: 9176491777

CHENNAI, MUDLR Ph.D, Tetolr, Divorced, 42Yrs,GM Chess Govt 2Lac/ Mth.Educ simple Any Cast,Girl 9884171419

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 36, BCA, MBA, Ht –5.5, Wheatish Color, HR (Asst Manager) in IT, Sal: 1.5L PM 8148017757

BRIDE WANTED Tamil Beri Chettiar 32,BE, MS working Infosys seeks girl from Chettiar Chennai Ct 9566163405

WELL–SETTLED, US based professional 41/180, Hindu, Tamil, Vegetarian, B.Tech & MS, working in San Francisco, first marriage seeks well–educated, independent, open–minded partner, never married or divorced (no children), working in or willing to relocate to USA. Ct: 9500160513.

TAMIL JAIN 32/ 185 Pooradam/ B.E/ Business, settled in Chennai seeks suitable Bride from same community or Pure Veg Family. Ct:97890 90793

MUDALIYAR WELL settled parents seek educated bride for their Engineer son Chithrai 38/180 own business Chennai Ph: 9884452926

MUDALIAR 30/185, Handsome, MBBS, MS, 3500000.PA, Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

MUDALIAR, BE, MTECH 28/168cm working in software - Chennai good looking seeks working bride. Ct: 9444701999 / 9841816265

HINDU, 37, caste no bar, NRI, 30 crores, 8138900470.

HINDU, divorced, USA, CPA 30 crores, 9072777811

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom

Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only

CT: 93842 76066

TAMIL

HINDU IYER, Kanva Gothram, 1975, Revathi, Teetotaler, unmarried businessman from Kanniyakumari Dist. seeks Iyer/Iyengar Bride from Tamil Nadu or Kerala. Good Looking Graduate-Unmarried or Divorcee (without issues) acceptable. Ct: 98428 22128.

VADAKALAI - HARITA Gothram, Mithunam, Thiruvathirai (Sep.1998), Height 170 cms, B.E., I.T., Professional, Chennai. Seeks employed bride. Contact sundara1969@gmail.com Mobile - 99526 34577, 80729 60464.

HINDU SC-AD 30/169 B.E., MBA well placed boy from well settled family seeks suitable bride. Caste no bar. Contact 9448664461

Brahmin 47, Working in Chennai Pvt Ltd, Own House, Fair, Clean habit only Son. Ct: 97914 53205/ 99629 17322. Caste no bar.

Hindu SC- AD, Age 32, B.Sc Psychology, Elite family, seeks any degree Bride, for a Low Vision Groom. Caste no bar. Ct: 94443 55050/ 98401 20243.

Brahmin Boy Vadamal 29 years 183cm well Educated working in MNC @ Chennai Drawing 1.50 Lakh P/M looking graduate Bride from a decent family of any Brahmin group Sub Sect No bar. Ct: 9940037800 / 9840861130

Viswakarma 33/170cm, BE (EEE) Sr. Engg working in Ashok Leyland Macroline Control Chennai, Earning 4.2L / PA, seeks well Educated good Looking Bride. Star : Sathayam, Rasi: Kumbam. Contact: 98400 39922.

Alliance for 32 Years, B.E, Valluvan, well placed in leading I.T. Sector, Chennai, seeks suitable match. Contact - 09968268646.

Wealthy Iyengar Family Settled in US. Eldest Son, 37 Yrs, Fair, 173 cm, B.Sc. Computers In USA, Managing Family Business, Monthly Income 10k USD, Mild Asperger's Syndrome, Looking for Homely Good Looking Bride Any Brahmin Sub Sect / Caste, Basic Communication Skills in English, Graduate, Willing to Settle In USA, Early Marriage, Contact Ph./Wh. 9849215792

Canada PR, Fair BTech IT, 30 Years Vellalar 185 cm. Seeks Fair Good Looking Bride. Contact: 9866006556

Mudilar Boy 1993 Born/ 180 cm/ MBBS / MS / Doctor Looking for a Suitable match (CNB) (9940570961)

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU Parents Settled Australia Masters / 31 / 185Cms Fair Handsome Well Settled Good Family Values Invites Alliance from Similar Background. Chithappa: 9884056059

BRIDE WANTED Rich Naidu, 29yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Divorce, No issues, Elite Industrial background in Chennai. Contact: 63852 93227

PANTA REDDY, 46/170 B.Tech, 10LPA, Unmarried, Educated, well settled family chennai. Seeks Reddy / Naidu Bride, Sub–Caste No Bar. 9940360491

1992 / 175 cm / Civil Service/ IRS Officer/ Father Rtd IPS / Looking Match (Caste No Bar) - 7200200946

Telugu Boy 1995 born/ 183 cm/ Doctor/ Resident of Bangalore is looking for match - (080-69103034)

Chennai Telugu Boy 1995 born / Affluent Family/ Only Son / Businessman/ Networth 500 Cr (9940383460)

URDU

URDU MUSLIM Age 35 /172cm DCE,BA. Business Rs.25Lac/PA Well Settled, Seeks Graduate, Beautiful Religious Bride. Ct:9444324785 / 9790706354

35 YRS divorcee working in Dubai based company from a dakhni muslim family in Trichy looking for an educated girl (unmarried / divorcee Issueless) Contact : 9841060600.

Muslim Boy 1993 Born / MBBS/ MD/ Doctor/ Bangalore resident/ is looking for match (080-69129259)

Muslim Boy 31 Yrs/ MS in Engineering / Senior Software Engineer/ 3Cr / Posted Newyork (7200200946)

Muslim Boy 1994 Born / Doctor/ 180 cm / Residing in Chennai Is looking for a suitable match (9940570609)

SMU 35/182cm, BE, Employed / Well Settled / Divorced/ No Children seeks Educated / Religious/ Divorced /Widow / Not Married Bride, No Children. Age Below 32 years. Contact: 98843 45754

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED

A Graceful and accomplished young woman from a reputed Padmashali Family, 27yrs Age, 5'.5" height Pursuing Post Graduation in General Surgery, she blends confidence with warmth and a refined outlook. She seeks a well-settled any Groom doing PG/Super Speciality (Medical or Surgical) from same community or any B.C Community aged 28 to 31 years, preferably from Doctor Family in and around of North Andhra.

nseppnet@gmail.com 96424 87301

TAMIL

TAMIL VISWAKARMA BRIDEGROOM WANTED

Tamil Viswakarma, age : 26 years, 153 cm, B.Com., fair, daughter of a well renowned industrialist. Looking for a suitable well educated , good looking groom, belonging to an affluent family preferably having own industry or business.

Contact : +919952884038

TAMIL

WELL EDUCATED, 36 , Seeks Compatible Groom. Caste No Bar. Call / WA 94896 95984.

SAIVA VELLALAR 29 years old widow with 3 years old son, working as a Nurse, seeks a decent Never Married Bride Groom from Saiva Vellalar, Mudaliar and Chettiar sec. Divorcees pls excuse. Contact : 9843332094

MUDHALIAR 31 162cm BTech Abudhabi working in MNC seeking High Abroad Profiles CNB Geetham 9884858014

40/163CMS CHRISTIAN girl Born Again Christian SC AD/ M.B.A/ Not working/ Own house seeks suitable groom below 45 yrs. Ct: 7339432540

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar, CNB, 26yrs, BE, MBA, Seeking Elite business Groom only Contact 6385293227

Hindu Fair 43/154, MSc Divorcee seeks well settled Groom below 52 CNB Phone/ Whatsapp 9791881860

TAMIL

Tamil Girl /2004 Born/High Rich Class Family/ 163 cm/ Resident Bangalore/ looking match (080-69129269)

2001 Born/ Tamil Girl / Affluent Family is looking for a suitable Match (7200363114)

SC/AD 38 BEsenior software engineer TCS - Chennai Rs.17 Lakh PA never married seeks Qualified / Employed Groom Ct: 9952147216 / 88380 34943

TELUGU

Balija Naidu 35Y/165cm PhD Scholar, Academic Trainer and Mentor in Chennai seeks suitably qualified groom born between 1987 to mid 1990 within India only. Ph: 97909 08109

SEEKS BRIDE GROOM for Naidu age 39/172 MSc divorce no children upper middle class. Seeks well settled equal groom. Cell No. 9842470621.

44 Yrs /165cm/ SWE/ Bengaluru. OC/ Caste no bar. seeks Engineer/Doctor/ Professional Groom. Ct: 9182734077

TELUGU

Caste No Bar 30 Years ,160 cm MD Doctor Bride Settled Family. Suitable Groom Doctor or S.W.E. 9573121555

NAIDU GIRL 29/165cm , Aswini pursuing PhD doctoral studies in Satellite Communications Neuromorphic computing European space agency - Europe seeking suitable groom PhD / MS in USA. Ct: 98401 03686

Tall Beautiful, Reddy, Divorcee Girl 31 years 174 cm from elite, affluent and well Educated Family in Hyderabad with Family networth of 150 cr looking for a City based Telugu speaking Boy with min Height of 178 cm from similar background. Pls. Contact 9100796691

URDU

✔ **SUNNI MUSLIM** girl, 94born , 164cm , B.Tech ,never married,working in PSU bank Mumbai.U.P rooted family well settled in Rajasthan. Father retired Addl.Director. #9461179587

URDU

SMU 27 fair Dentist well settle looking alliance from decent family Abroad also preferable.Ct. 9840025035watsap

URDU SUNNI Muslim, Parents from Tamilnadu seeks Alliance for their daughter 23/160cm Wheatish complexion Canadian citizen OCI Card Holder Working as a HR Administrator looking for suitable Alliance from respectable family. US or Canadian Resident preferred. Groom should be from respectable Religious Educated Upper Middle Class or Rich Family. Contact: 9043017868, imrandr33@gmail.com

✔ **SUNNI MUSLIM** Mumbai based Urdu speaking Religious family seeking Groom from India or abroad for their only daughter (32 years) B.F.M., CFA Level 2, Digital Marketing Professional,Fair, Good looking. Contact : +91 – 7977313228

2002 Muslim Girl Born Bangalore, MBA, Affluent Family. Early Marriage Preferred - (080-69129259)

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

THE HINDU

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High Court dismisses plea against actor Ranya Rao's detention

'The order of detention has been passed after considering all the relevant aspects of the matter,' says a Division Bench while dismissing a writ of *habeas corpus* petition filed by H.P. Rohini, mother of the actor

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has found no fault in the order passed by the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau (CEIB) keeping Kannada film actor Harshavardhini Ranya Rao under preventive detention by invoking provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling Activities Act (COFEPOSA), 1974, for allegedly smuggling gold into the country.

"The order of detention has been passed after considering all the relevant aspects of the matter...," said a Division Bench, comprising Justice Anu Sivaraman and Justice Vijaykumar A. Patil, while dismissing a writ of *habeas corpus* petition filed by H.P. Rohini, mother of Ranya Rao.

The petitioner had challenged the April 22, 2025, order for keeping her daughter Ranya Rao under the preventive detention after the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence disclosed that the actress has been indulging in gold smuggling after she was caught red-handed at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru while smuggling around 14 kg of gold bars from Dubai on March 3.

The major reason raised in the petition to contend that the detention was illegal was that a pen drive, containing documents related to her detention, was not made available to her, and it was served on her mother after the statutory deadline of 15 days.

However, the Bench rejected this contention while pointing out that the contents of the pen drive was played on a laptop, and she was shown the entire contents in the prison within five days from the date of detention order as norms of the prison did not allow handing over of any electronic devices to the inmates.

Also, the Bench noted that Ranya Rao had asked the officers to handover the pen drive to her lawyer, who was initially inaccessible to the officials. Though the lawyer later agreed to collect it from the officers, he did not turn up and subsequently had messaged the officers to hand over the pen drive to Ranya Rao in person.

As the officers finally handed over the pen drive to the petitioner after repeated attempts to reach her, the Bench said that no fault can be found for delayed delivery of pen drive as Ranya had acknowledged viewing of the pen drive's contents in the prison.

The CEIB had pointed out to the court that the material gathered during the investigation demonstrates the existence of a well-orchestrated, commercially motivated, transnational smuggling syndicate operated by Ranya Rao and others over a sustained period.

On her claim that her detention was not necessary as her passport has been seized, the CEIB authority had said that absence of a passport does not impede her potentiality and propensity to continue these illegal activities as she, being the kingpin of a smuggling network, has the resources to orchestrate and execute smuggling activities even without travelling abroad.

Her involvement, the CEIB had said, is not limited to physical smuggling but extends to planning, organising, and coordinating the smuggling operations through associates and intermediaries.

Focus on origin, quality for better global standing, Piyush Goyal urges coffee community

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurating the centenary celebration of the Central Coffee Research Institute at Balehonnur in Chikkamagaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Coffee Board of India has taken sustained initiatives in promoting Indian coffee in domestic as well as global markets, and from now on, more thrust should be given to identity (estate origin) and quality of coffees, said Piyush Goyal, Union Minister for Commerce and Industry.

He was speaking at the opening session of the centenary celebration of Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) at Balehonnur in Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday.

Appreciating the Coffee Board's contribution towards the growth of the commodity over several decades, Mr. Goyal said that India, being the fifth-largest producer and the third-largest exporter of coffee, has a good standing in the global coffee market.

On the economic impact of coffee, the Minister said that 80% of India's coffee production is exported to 120 countries, supporting approximately over two million families in India and contributing around ₹20,000 crore to the economy.

Addressing an audience comprising ministers, ambassadors, coffee farmers, processors, startups, and researchers at CCRI via video, the Union Minister said, "There is a critical need to secure the unique identity of Indian coffee and celebrate its indigenous origin. This requires applying quality practices from the land level itself. Quality will help it cross international boundaries easily," he said.

Acknowledging CCRI's contributions in the last 100 years or so, Mr. Goyal said the planters' community, coffee industry, and government should look forward to its role in the next century as a leader responsible for developing more climate-resilient and sturdy coffee varieties.

Mr. Goyal also called for continued efforts in protecting the environment, preserving biodiversity, and maintaining soil quality, ensuring that coffee plantations continue to yield good quality coffee.

Speaking on the occasion, K.J. George, Minister for Energy and district incharge Minister of Chikkamagaluru, said coffee cultivation in Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, and Hassan, as well as the overall role of these coffee heartlands, are playing a critical role in bringing global recognition to Indian coffee growers.

Two new coffee varieties launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Coffee Research Institute (CCRI) at Balehonnur, Chikkmagaluru, as part of its centenary celebrations, introduced two new Arabica coffee varieties that are high-yielding and tolerant to white stem borer (WSB) and leaf rust disease.

Releasing the new varieties, Union Minister for Consumers Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi stressed the need to do good marketing of Indian coffees, while exploring the market both in the country and abroad.

MP calls for national sandalwood board to aid growers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

C.N. Manjunath, Bengaluru Rural MP, has urged the Union government to establish a separate national sandalwood board to address the concerns of sandalwood growers across the country.

Raising the issue in the recently concluded Parliament session, Dr. Manjunath said Karnataka, known as the "land of sandalwood", accounts for nearly 65% of India's total sandalwood production, highlighting the crop's cultural, traditional and economic importance to the State. He pointed out that sandalwood cultivation, harvesting and marketing are currently regulated by varying policies across States, resulting in procedural difficulties for growers. The lack of uniform regulations had created challenges in securing permissions from Forest and Home Departments, affecting cultivation, harvest and sale, he said.

On lines of Coffee Board

The cardiologist-turned-politician said a national-level sandalwood board, on the lines of the Coffee Board and as recommended by NITI Aayog, would bring uniform central legislation governing sandalwood cultivation, trade and marketing.

The proposed board, he said, would encourage farmers to take up sandalwood cultivation by providing a transparent and farmer-friendly regulatory framework. It would also facilitate open market access, strengthen anti-theft measures, improve access to institutional credit, and enhance transparency in sandalwood import and export.

Dr. Manjunath also met Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and submitted a memorandum seeking the establishment of the board, outlining the concerns of sandalwood growers. He said the proposed body would help improve farmers' incomes and promote sustainable growth of the sandalwood sector.

CID begins search for BJP MLA Byrathi Basavaraj in murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has formed a special team to trace BJP MLA and former Minister Byrathi Basavaraj after the High Court rejected his plea for anticipatory bail in the murder case of rowdy-turned-realtor Shivaprakash alias Biklu Shiva.

A CID source told *The Hindu* that a team is searching for the MLA, who is believed to be in another State. According to the officer, certain technical evidence and payment details uncovered during investigations contradict the claims made by Basavaraj during interrogation. While one team is tasked with tracing him, another has continued investigations in the city.

Shivaprakash was hacked to death on July 15 near his house in Bharatinagar

Meanwhile, Basavaraj approached the special court of sessions for criminal cases against present and former MPs and MLAs on Saturday, seeking anticipatory bail in the case. The court adjourned the hearing till Monday, asking the prosecution to file its objections.

On Friday, the Karnataka High Court quashed the Karnataka Control of Organised Crime Act (KCOCA), 2000, invoked against Basavaraj and other accused following investigations into Shivaprakash's murder. However, it rejected his plea for anticipatory bail and asked him to move the sessions court.

After the judgement, the CID swiftly formed a team to detain the MLA. However, he was absent on the last day of the winter session as well, prompting the CID to widen the search.

Shivaprakash was hacked to death on July 15 near his house in Bharatinagar in Bengaluru East. Police launched a search operation following a complaint filed by Vijayalakshmi, the mother of the deceased. Basavaraj was named as accused number five in the FIR. As investigations revealed crucial links and the case grew in complexity, it was transferred to the CID. So far, 12 arrests have been made, and investigations are continuing.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, DEC. 21	
RISE 06:37	SET 17:59
RISE 07:37	SET 19:05
MONDAY, DEC. 22	
RISE 06:37	SET 17:59
RISE 08:25	SET 19:59
TUESDAY, DEC. 23	
RISE 06:38	SET 18:00
RISE 09:11	SET 20:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	15
Bengaluru	28	16

Bengaluru Today
28°C The weather will be dry. Day will be comfortable. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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State to begin ECCE, pre-primary classes in 4,056 more government schools

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

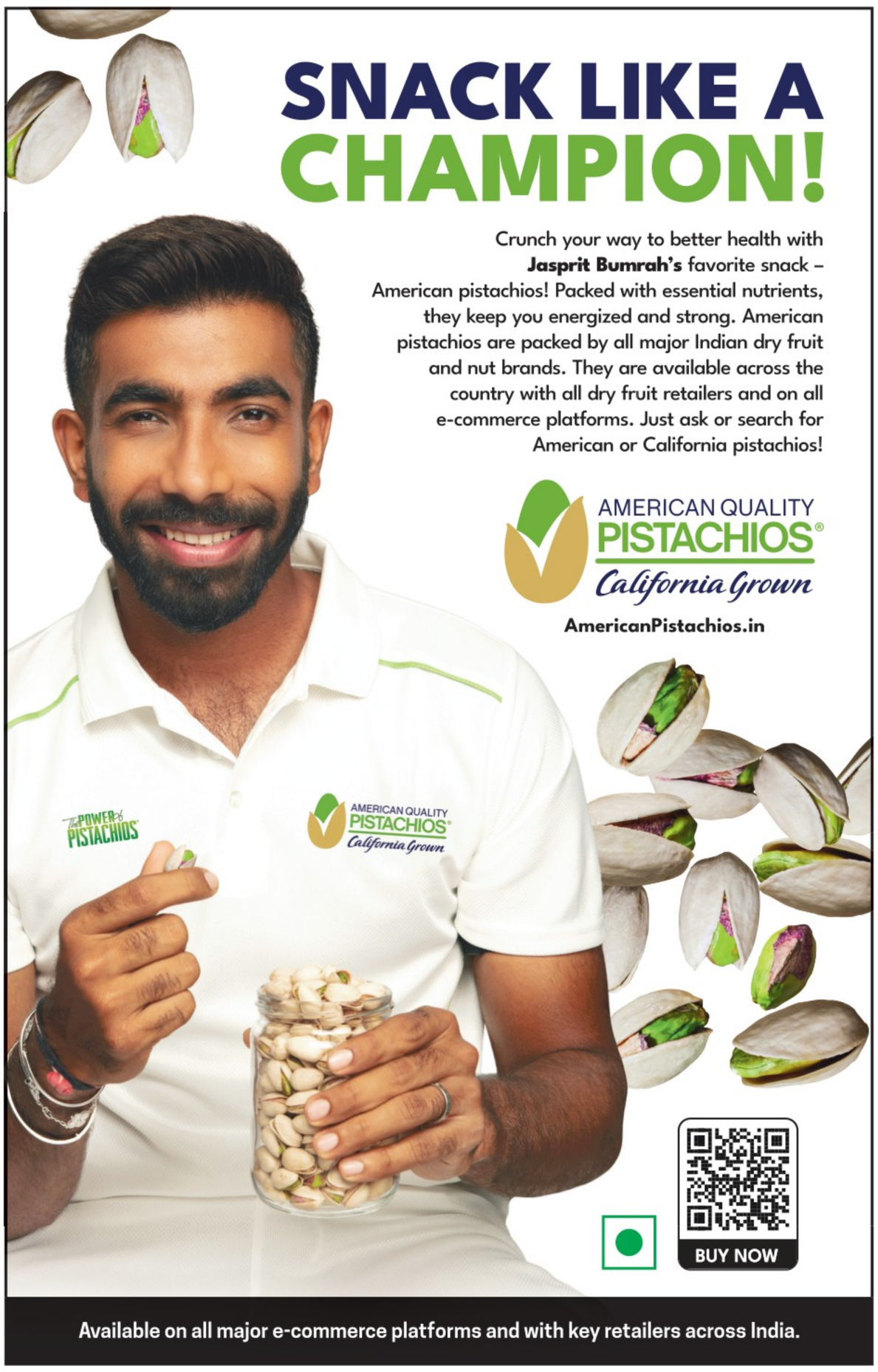
The lack of pre-primary classes in government schools is seen as one of the main reasons why parents opt for private schools, among a host of other reasons. K. MURALI KUMAR

The State government has issued an order to start Early Child Care Education (ECCE), pre-primary classes of LKG and UKG, in 4,056 government schools across the State in 2025-26. The classes will likely begin in the academic year 2026-27.

The lack of pre-primary classes in government schools is seen as one of the main reasons why parents opt for private schools, among a host of other reasons. To correct this, the State government has begun a programme to start ECCE classes in government schools.

The government currently runs pre-primary classes in 2,619 schools started between 2018-19 and 2024-25.

Further, the State Budget 2025-26 announced that the government would further start pre-primary classes in 5,000 more government schools in this financial year at an estimated cost of ₹70 crore. Implementing this Budget proposal, the State government on November 14, 2025, issued an order to start new ECCE classes in 4,056 government schools and released a list of the same. Of these, the ECCE classes will be started in 1,105 schools under the Samagra Shikshana Karnataka scheme, in 126 PM Shri schools, in 1,126 schools by the KKRDB and 1,699 KPS Magnet schools.



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Mysuru zoo. FILE PHOTO

Glanders: Zoo on alert

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Mysuru Zoo is on alert following the detection of a case of glanders disease, a highly contagious infection that mainly affects equine species such as horses.

Precautionary steps
Zoo executive director Anusha said necessary precautionary measures have been taken in view of the disease reported at Mysore Race Club. Zoo keepers have been sensitised about how the disease spreads and the preventive steps required to protect equine species such as zebras housed at the zoo.

Sanitised
The entire zoo campus was sanitised on Tuesday, a day when the zoo remains closed to visitors. Necessary instructions have also been issued to food suppliers to ensure proper segregation of food items for various animal species. Vehicles entering the zoo premises carrying food supplies will be thoroughly sanitised at the gates, she said, adding that necessary bio-security measures are in place.

A health advisory meeting was convened at the zoo on Friday during which veterinarians discussed the disease and the precautions to be taken to prevent its spread.

CAG report flags gaps in disaster preparedness in State hospitals

It has examined the performance of public health infrastructure and management of health services

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

An audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India has flagged serious shortcomings in disaster management preparedness across hospitals in Karnataka, including the absence of evacuation plans, fire safety mechanisms, and mandatory statutory clearances.

The CAG report, tabled in the legislature during the Belagavi session, examined the performance of public health infrastructure and management of health services, including disaster management, for the period 2016 to 2022.

Except for Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru, none of the test-checked institutions had evacuation plans in place for emergencies. FILE PHOTO

Uneven compliance
As per the National Health Mission (NHM) assessor's guidebook, every health institution (HI) is required to have a disaster management plan (DMP), standard operating procedures for disaster response and a disaster management committee to periodically review preparedness. However, the audit found uneven compliance among the test-checked institutions.

Of the 29 health institutions audited up to the community health centre (CHC) level, 23 had prepared disaster management plans and 20 had constituted disaster management committees. However, except for Victoria Hospital in Bengaluru, none of the test-checked institutions had evacuation plans in place for emergencies. The audit also noted partial compliance with basic safety requirements. While 26 institutions had displayed fluorescent fire exit signage, only six had displayed important emergency contact numbers of nearby medical centres, blood banks, fire, police and ambulance services.

Fire safety concerns
More serious deficiencies were observed in fire prevention and firefighting preparedness. Under the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) guidelines, hospitals are required to have fire hydrants, sand buckets and underground water facilities, and to obtain no-objection certificates (NOC) from the Fire Department.

The audit found that none of the test-checked institutions, except KIMS, Hubballi, and Victoria Hospital, had fire hydrants. Two institutions – taluk hospital at K.R. Puram and CHC at Sargur – had no firefighting mechanism at all. Though 40 institutions had fire extinguishers, in 15 of them the equipment had not been refilled after expiry. Except for five institutions, none had obtained NOCs from the Fire Department.

Further, smoke detectors and alarms were absent in 41 health institutions, and a fire prevention plan was available in only 11 facilities. The absence of firefighting mechanisms would make evacuation of patients and staff extremely difficult in the event of a fire, the audit report warned.

Gaps being addressed
Indira Kabade, nodal officer for disaster management in the Health Department, said the gaps identified by the audit were being addressed at the institutional level. She pointed out that the audit covered the period from 2016 to 2022, including the COVID-19 years, and that significant upgrading of hospital infrastructure had taken place after the pandemic. "We are continuously monitoring compliance, and the Health Commissioner has issued a circular last month," she said. According to the Health Commissioner's circular dated November 11, 2025, all health institutions across the State – including district hospitals, taluk hospitals, CHCs and primary health centres (PHCs) – have designated their respective heads as nodal officers for disaster management. Medical officers, administrative medical officers, district surgeons, medical superintendents and heads of institutions have been directed to strictly adhere to the National Disaster Management Guidelines for Hospital Safety.

Key requirements
The circular prioritises compliance with five key requirements highlighted in the CAG report include preparation of disaster management plans, constitution of disaster management committees, formulation of evacuation plans, installation of fire exit signage.

Instructing heads of health institutions to ensure compliance, the circular stated that District Health and Family Welfare Officers will prepare compliance reports and submit consolidated reports to Divisional Joint Directors for verification. Following this, verified reports must be forwarded within 15 days to the Disaster Management Nodal Officer at the Health Commissionerate, the circular added.

UAS Bengaluru to organise Raitha Santhe on Dec. 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bengaluru, will organise 'Raita Sante and Raita Dinacharane-2025' on December 27.

The Raita Sante will be held on the GKVK campus from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., showcasing and facilitating the direct sale of farm produce, value-added products, organic inputs, seeds, agricultural machinery, horticultural produce, livestock products, and agro-based enterprises. As part of Raita Dinacharane, an agricultural seminar and an award ceremony will take place at the Dr. Babu Rajendra Prasad International Convention Centre, GKVK, focusing on knowledge sharing and honoring excellence in agriculture.

Sustainable farming
Farmers and the general public are invited to participate in this event aimed at promoting sustainable farming and strengthening farmer-consumer linkages.

Alliance University convocation held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alliance University held its 14th convocation on Saturday under the theme 'When Dreams Take Wings', conferring 1,962 degrees and diplomas across diverse programmes. The graduating cohort comprised 960 undergraduates, 887 postgraduates, 10 doctoral scholars, 20 diploma holders in performing arts, and 85 executive postgraduate diploma recipients.

Justice Ananya Bandyopadhyay, Judge of the Calcutta High Court and chief guest, urged graduates to view education as a moral trust rather than a mere credential. Guests of honour included Rishikesha T. Krishnan, professor incharge of IIM Bangalore's new campus, and Veerappan V., co-founder and president at Tessolve, were present.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY — **E-TENDER NOTICE**

DRM/Electrical, North Western Railway, Jodhpur for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work.**1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No : http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 09.01.2026** up to 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 hrs. on **09.01.2026 Tender Notice No.** 4R4/2025-26 **Name of work** : Electrical work in connection with (a) replacement of old/dilapidated quarters by 12 unit Type-II quarters at RKB under ADEN/HQ/JU. (b) Electrical work in connection with replacement of old/dilapidated quarters by 25units Type-II quarters in DS colony under ADEN/HQ. (c) Electrical work in connection with replacement of old/dilapidated quarters by 22 units Type-II quarters in old loco colony under ADEN/HQ **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** :रू. 10777953.06 **Tender Notice No.**: 19R4/2025-26 **Name of work** : Electrical work in connection with construction of new staff quarters of type-II (OSN-2nos, MWT-2nos, STSN-2nos, RDRA-4nos, POK-4nos) Total 14nos, Type -III (MMY-01no, MWT-01 nos, PLCJ-03nos, RDRA-02nos, POK-01nos) Total-08nos in Rai Ka Bagh-Jaisalmer section **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : 5691446.36 **Tender Notice No.** : 30R/2025-26 **Name of work** : Electrical work in connection with (a) Construction of new staff quarters at Chilo (06nos Type II) and at Surpura (06nos Type II) in MTD-BKN section (b) Electrical work in connection with improvement of staff quarters in RKB-JSM Section **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : 4371457.03 **Tender Notice No.** :39R/2025-26 **Name of work** : i) Electrical work in connection with provision of new high level platform 4/5 at Barmer Station with 04 bay platform shelter, water booths, benches, extension of existing foot over bridge from PF-2/3 to the new PF - 4/5 (ii) Electrical work in connection with provision of raising of PF-2 from medium level to high level with 03 seater benches water booths at Marwar Kori, Malwara and Kavas (03) stations) in the section of Sr. DEN/West **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : 10550722.64 **Tender Notice No.** : GSUELECTG8R1/2025-26 **Name of work** : Electrical work i/c with provision of (a) Construction of ballast less track on Main Line (PF Line) at Jodhpur station (PF 1 &3). (b) Construction of ballast less track on Main Line (PF Line) at Jodhpur station (PF 5&6). **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.)** : 12615003.33 For detailed information visit **http://www. ireps.gov.in**

1639-DR/25

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Publication of Corrigendum-3 to Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/148/2025 Dated 13.10.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Design, Customization, Implementation, Operations & Maintenance support of Integrated Project Management and information system (PMIS) for various projects under South Western Railway. **(Tender Ref. No. PMIS-SWR-01)**	**Rs. 6,66,00,380/-**

Date of Closing	
Existing	**Revised**
30.12.2025 (15:00 Hrs.)	**14.01.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.

PUB/749/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

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CLARIFICATION OF NAME

I, M.H. Mamatha W/o Late Malepet Harinath, R/at No.143, Pipeline Road, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040 do hereby solemnly state that as mentioned in Aadhaar Card and other official documents my correct name is **M.H. MAMATHA.** But in few documents my name is mentioned as **MAMTA.** I further state that both names i.e., **M.H. MAMATHA** and **MAMTA** belongs to and refers to same person ie., me only vide affidavit dated 19.12.2025 sworn to Notary.

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
PROVISION OF CCTV FACILITY

DRM (C)'s, Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of the president of India Invites E-tender from the reputed firms/Contractor for the following work: **E-Tender Notice No: SUR-C-WKS-CCTVGOODS-SHED, Date: 19.12.2025. Name of work**: Provision of CCTV facility in 10 goods sheds over Solapur division. **Approximate cost of work**: Rs. 14614457.59. **Earnest Money**: Rs. 223100/-. **Completion period of the work**: 6 [six] Months. **Maintenance Period**: 12 [Twelve] **Months. Cost of Tender form**: Nil. **Date and time for submission for tender on www.ireps.gov.in website**: 12.01.2026 up to 15:00 hrs. **Date and time of opening of tender on www.ireps.gov.in**: 12.01.2026 after 15:30 hrs. **Website particulars: www.ireps.gov.in Note**: The Prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any change / corrigendum issued for this tender website : **www.ireps.gov.in**

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SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower/s and Guarantor/s particular that the under mentioned property mortgaged to Canara Bank, the possession of which had been taken by the Authorised Officer of the Bank under Section 13(4) of the Act will be sold by E-Auction as mentioned below for recovery of under mentioned dues and applicable interest, Charges and cost etc as detailed below.

The Property described below is being sold on **"AS IS WHERE IS", "AS IS WHAT IS", AND "WHATEVER THERE IS"** under rule no.8 & 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules (hereinafter referred to as the rules) for the recovery of the dues detailed as under:

(1) Sri. Thammaiah S/o Marilingaiah, Kavanapura Village, Ramanagara Taluk & District, Karnataka-562159

The Total Amount Due: Rs. 24,86,594.52/- (Rupees Twenty Four Lakhs Eighty Six Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Four and Fifty Two Paise Only) as on **17-12-2025** together with further interest, costs and expenses with further interest and charges due to contact **Canara Bank, Specialised ARM Branch, No.40, 1st Floor, Statue Square, Mysuru.**

Description of the immovable assets: All the parts and Parcel of the Property Bearing, Khaneshumari No 159/2, Property No 152900401500620005, Situated at Kavanapura Village, Kylancha Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk & District. **Measuring : East to West - 75 Feet, North to South - 20 Feet & Total - 1500 Square Feet Property bounded by: East By:** Road, **West By:** Property of Ningappa, **North By:** Property of Dyavarasaiah, **South By:** Property of K N Susheela

Name of Title Holder : Sri. Thammaiah

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

The details regarding E-Auction are Mentioned below:

Date and Time of E-Auction	**29-01-2026 11.00 AM to 2.00 PM**	
Reserve Price / Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Reserve Price (Rs. in Lakhs)**	**EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)**
	Rs.20,00,000/-	**Rs.2,00,000/-**
Bid Factor	**Rs. 50,000/-**	
Date & Time of Inspection	**28-01-2026 at On or before 4 PM**	

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, Specialized ARM Branch, Mysuru, Canara Bank – C Vamsikrishna, Ph. No. 9848702166 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 21-12-2025
Place : Mysuru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client intends to purchase the below mentioned properties from its present owner in possession **Smt. M. Malligea Cariappa.**

The general public, banks, lenders, relatives, heirs apparent etc., are hereby called upon to lodge their objections if any with me with regard to the **land bearing Sy.No.126/1 measuring 27 Guntas, land bearing Sy.No.126/2 measuring 7 Acres 3 Guntas and land bearing Sy.No.127 measuring 36 Guntas excluding kharab of 1 Gunta in all measuring 8 Acres 27 Guntas all situated at Hampapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Srirangapatna Taluka and Mandya district.**

In case if anyone have any claim or rights over the said property/properties, they can lodge their objections/ claims with cogent documents/records so as to reach me ***within 3 weeks*** from today, failing which, my client may proceed to purchase the said property/ properties and any objections/claims raised later on will not be conceded/ entertained.

Eashwar Prasad. B., Advocate,
No.15, 4th floor, Grand Majestic,
Gandhinagar 2nd Cross Road,
Bengaluru-560009.
Mob: 9448690314 / 8310039482 / 9945699995
Bengaluru Date: 20.12.2025

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
OPEN E-TENDER NOTICE
(Through e-tender)

On the behalf of President of India e-tenders are invited by the Sr.DMM/DSD/NWR, Jodhpur. **1. Name of Item** : TRACTION MOTOR COMPLETE (WITHOUT MSU/CANON TUBE & BULL GEAR) FOR 1600HP IGBTDEMU AS PER SCOPE OF SUPPLY ENCLOSED AS ANNEXURE -1 (LIST OF 70 ITEMS) CONFORMING TO ALLRELEVANT CLAUSES OF RDSO SPECIFICATION No.MP.0.24.00.45 (REV.02) ALONG WITH ICF NNEXUREAPPLICABLE FOR THIS ITEM.MAKE TYPE No.TME-48-45-6, PART No.SPDMU OF M/S.MEDHA TRACTIONEQUIPMENTS PVT LTD **2. Approximate cost of items :** Rs. 6679980.00 (Rs Sixty Six Lakh Seventy Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Eighty Rupees Only) **3. Earnest Money to be deposited** : Rs. 133600.00 (Rs. One Lack Thirty Three Thousand Six Hundred Rupees Only.) **4. Last date and time for submission of E-tender Opening of E-tender** : 29.12.2025, 11.25 Hrs. **5. Web site from E-tender forms can be obtained** : **www.ireps.gov.in 6. Address of the NIT issuing Office** : Officer of the Sr.DMM/DSD, NWR, Jodhpur- 342001 (Rajasthan) **Notice: 1.** Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be summarily rejected. **2.** Cost of tender document & EMD online through e-transfers i.e. through payment gateway facility **3.** on the IREPS website.

1640-DR/25

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Smt. Deviyani H, W/o. Sri. Dharnish S is interested in purchasing the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from its owner, M/s. Reddy Structures Private Limited having its office at No. 133/1, The Residency, 2nd Floor, residency Road, Bangalore- 560 025, rep. by its Managing Director Sri. K. Praveen.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Residential property bearing Vacant Site No. 1720, formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 26/1, Village Panchayath Khata bearing property No. 404/1720, PID No. 150200100-400722312, situated at Giddenahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, measuring East to West: 50+50.1/2 Ft. and North to South : 48.9+51.6/2 Ft. in total measuring 2517.69 Sq. Ft. or 233.90 Sq. Mtrs. and bounded as follows: East by: Road, West by: Private property, North by: Plot No. 1719 South by: Pathway.

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K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 34, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
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Leadership issue: 'High command will call us at an appropriate time'

Shivakumar also says his proposed visit to Delhi is not related to the political developments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hinting that the party high command had sent a message that a decision on change in leadership would be taken soon, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday said it had been conveyed to both the Chief Minister and him that they would be "called [to Delhi] at an appropriate time".

Mr. Shivakumar's statement comes a day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asserted in the Legislative Assembly that he would continue in office and that, in his view, the Congress high command was in his favour.

"They have said that they will call both of us at an appropriate time. When that happens, both of us will go to Delhi together," Mr. Shivakumar said, responding to questions on whether he had been invited by party leaders in Delhi.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, when questioned about this by reporters in Belagavi, refused to comment.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and other Congress leaders taking part in a protest against the Central government in Bengaluru on Saturday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

In Bengaluru, referring to the National Herald case, Mr. Shivakumar said the chargesheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate had been rejected by the court and that only one FIR now remained.

He said the Congress was staging protests to highlight what it viewed as pressure being exerted through investigation agencies.

Delinking his proposed visit to Delhi from the political developments, Mr. Shivakumar said he would on Tuesday appear before the Delhi Police.

He said the Union Jal Shakti Minister had also convened a meeting on river interlinking on the same day, during which he would raise key Karnataka projects, including Mahadayi, Upper Krishna, Mekedatu, and Upper Bhadra.

The Deputy Chief Minister said he had also sought appointments with the Union Ministers for Environment and Forests and for Housing and Urban Affairs to discuss issues related to the State.

Amid these developments, a meeting late on Saturday between former Minister K.N. Rajanna, earlier associated with the Chief Minister's camp, with Mr. Shivakumar raised eyebrows.

Protest by Congress

Earlier in the day, addressing the Satyameva Jayate protest organised by the Congress at Freedom Park, Mr. Shivakumar said the party would resist attempts to undermine Mahatma Gandhi's legacy. "Congress workers will not allow Gandhi's India to be turned into Godse's India," he said.

Recalling that Mahatma Gandhi had presided over the Congress session in Belagavi a century ago, Mr. Shivakumar accused the BJP-led Centre of attempting to remove Gandhi's name from the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

He said the scheme, introduced under Manmohan Singh's leadership with Sonia Gandhi's initiative, had provided livelihood support in rural areas. He said BJP leaders had lost the moral right to protest in front of Gandhi statues if they continued to remove Gandhi's name from public schemes.

Horatti chairs Council proceedings non-stop for more than 11 hours

Girish Pattanashetti
HUBBALLI

Chairman of the Legislative Council Basavaraj Horatti has created a record of sorts by chairing the session for over 11 hours on the concluding day of the Winter Session in Belagavi on Friday.

The House session on the last day began at 10.15 a.m. and continued without lunch break till 10.15 p.m. The only short break it had was for five minutes because of an adjournment, forced by ruckus caused by the Opposition and ruling party members over the Bill on hate speech.

Basavaraj Horatti chairing the proceedings in the Legislative Council in Belagavi on Friday. P.K. BADIGER

45 years in Council

Mr. Horatti, 79, who has created a record for being a member of Legislative Council continuously for over 45 years, sat through the entire proceedings.

Mr. Horatti who had said that he would announce lunch break after the Bill was put to vote, could not do so because the discussion on The Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, stretched for over six hours. This was the longest debate on any Bill during the Winter Session in which 23 members participated.

Mr. Horatti took a 10-minute break in between, but came back to be in the Chair. The continued debate without any break resulted in several Council members taking short breaks for snacks and beverages, while some slipped and returned after lunch.

Longest for CM too

The last day of the session in the Council also witnessed Chief Minister Siddaramaiah attending for almost around seven hours. Although Mr. Siddaramaiah wanted to leave and come back for the reply, Mr. Horatti insisted on him staying back till he completed his reply to the discussion on North Karnataka issues.

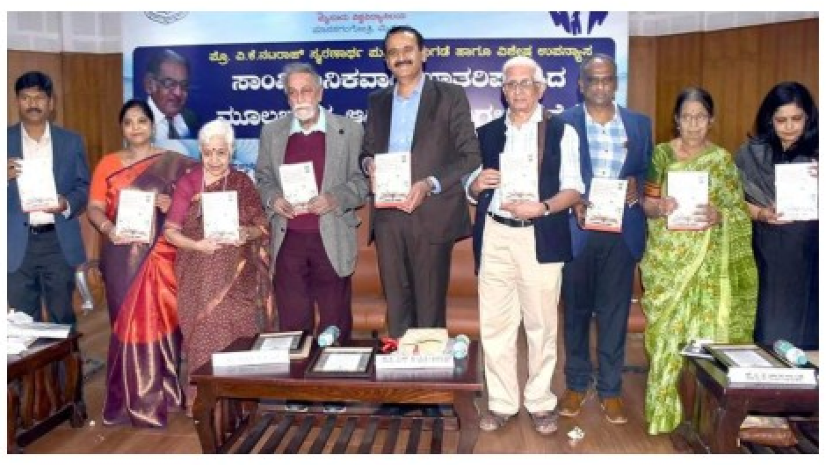
The Chief Minister sat through the discussions over various Bills before he was asked by the Chairman to make his reply and subsequent clarification which stretched for close to three hours.

Economist decries scrapping of MGNREGA

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Economist Prabhat Patnaik has criticised the "abandoning" of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) by the BJP-led government at the Centre.

Delivering a special lecture titled "A Set of Constitutionally Guaranteed Fundamental Economic Rights" after the release of a book in honour of late economist V.K. Natraj at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Research and Extension Centre, Manasagangothri here on Friday, Prof. Patnaik said the MGNREGA scheme was a "demand-based" scheme that conferred a right upon a person demanding work.


Vice-Chancellor of University of Mysore, N.K. Lokanath (fifth from left), releasing a book in Mysuru on Saturday. M.A. SRIRAM

Even though the scheme, which seeks to replace MGNREGA, talks about 125 days of work against the 100 days earlier, Prof. Patnaik said any programme that did away with the "demand-based" guarantee programme would deny the "rights" to the workers.

He recalled that the MGNREGA had been introduced in the country after building a consensus among all parties. The scheme was implemented on the basis of a unanimous resolution in Parliament and all the parties had agreed to this, he said.

When a scheme introduced through a unanimous resolution in Parliament was suddenly overturned by a majority vote, it suggested "there is something fundamentally problematic in instituting a rights-based programme in the country," he lamented.

Flagging India's sharply rising income and wealth inequality, Prof. Patnaik also advocated the introduction of wealth tax and inheritance tax to finance a set of constitutionally guaranteed fundamental economic rights for citizens.

Arguing for the recognition of fundamental economic rights on a par with civil and political rights, he said resources for it could be mobilised by imposing these two taxes on the top 1% of the population.

Nirmala launches 'VijAIpatha' labs in Hosapete government schools

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday launched 'VijAIpatha', a pilot Artificial Intelligence (AI) education initiative aimed at equipping government school students with future-ready skills in Artificial Intelligence, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), robotics, coding and digital innovation.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman interacting with students after launching 'VijAIpatha' in Hosapete on Saturday SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The initiative, implemented by the Cyient Foundation in partnership with the Karnataka government, was inaugurated at the Government Girls' Pre-University College at Amaravati in Hosapete taluk of Vijayanagara district.

In a rare reversal of roles, students briefed the Minister on AI concepts and demonstrated their learning, which she listened to attentively.

"Programmes such as VijAIpatha will help bridge the digital divide and prepare students from government schools for emerging technologies," the Minister said, while interacting with students and teachers.

> Programmes such as VijAIpatha will help bridge the digital divide and prepare students from government schools for emerging technologies
>
> NIRMALA SITHARAMAN
> ,
> Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs

As part of the pilot project, five world-class AI, STEM and Robotics laboratories are being set up in government schools in Hosapete taluk, benefiting over 2,000 students from Classes 6 to 10.

More than 100 teachers have already undergone training, with another batch of teachers to be trained to ensure sustained academic support.

Each school will be equipped with high-performance computers, AI-ready software, Internet of Things-enabled devices, robotics kits, sensors and secure broadband connectivity. The project is expected to positively impact nearly 6,000 households in the region.

Cyient founder-chairman B.V.R. Mohan Reddy said that the programme was a CSR-led effort to democratise access to advanced technology education.

Two fully equipped AI laboratories have been established at the Amaravati PU College alone, benefiting nearly 1,200 girl students. Similar labs have been set up at government high schools in Chittawadgi, T.B. Dam and Kariganur, and at the Adarsha Vidyalaya in Jambunathahalli. The Minister also reviewed the AI curriculum designed for students and teachers.

Mr. Mohan Reddy said around ₹1 crore would be spent over three years to establish and sustain the five laboratories. After the launch, Ms. Sitharaman interacted with students and reviewed the lab facilities.

Bengaluru Urban district has the most ex-servicemen in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There are around 94,376 registered ex-servicemen in Karnataka of which a majority of them are living in Bengaluru Urban district.

Question in RS

As per information given by the Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth in a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha during the ongoing Winter Session of Parliament, there are 31,999 registered ex-servicemen from the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force residing in Bengaluru Urban district as of June 30, 2025. Yadgir with 66 people is the district with the least number of registered ex-servicemen.

The district with the second highest number of ex-servicemen is Belagavi with 22,869, followed by Kodagu with 4,578. FILE PHOTO

As per data, of the 31,999 ex-servicemen around 21,742 are former Army personnel, 1,691 are former Navy personnel and 8,566 are former Air Force personnel.

The district with the second highest number of ex-servicemen is Belagavi with 22,869, followed by Kodagu with 4,578 ex-servicemen, Dharwad with 3,440 ex-servicemen, Mysuru with 3,413 ex-servicemen, and Bagalkot with 3,262 ex-servicemen.

Of the 94,376 registered ex-servicemen residing in the State, 78,633 are from the Army, 3,133 from the Navy, and 12,610 from the Air Force.

In Chickballapur district, there are no ex-Navy personnel while in Yadgir district there is only one ex-Air Force personnel.

The Minister to a question on whether any region-specific skilling and entrepreneurship support has been provided under the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) said that the DGR runs resettlement schemes and skill development training for ex-servicemen, disabled soldiers, widows and their dependents to provide job opportunities based on the region-specific skilling/entrepreneurships facilities as well as the demand.

Courses conducted

Further, courses have been conducted for the ex-servicemen in Bengaluru by the National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Indian Institute of Management in 2024-25 and 2025-26, training 240 ex-servicemen.

Eight courses were conducted in the NIESBUD during this period, training 160 personnel in the Entrepreneurship Development Programme. The IIM also conducted two courses during this period, training 80 personnel in certificate courses in Business Management.

'Cong. pushing State towards undeclared Emergency'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje on Saturday alleged that the Congress government in Karnataka was attempting to impose an "undeclared Emergency" in the State by curbing freedom of expression guaranteed under the Constitution.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP State office, Ms. Karandlaje criticised the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crimes (Prevention) Bill, 2025, stating that it violated Article 19(1) of the Constitution, which guarantees freedom of speech and expression.

NK issues

Ms. Karandlaje said the Belagavi legislature session should have focused on addressing issues concerning North Karnataka, but was instead "reduced to discussions centred on the hate speech Bill".

Letter to Governor

Ms. Karandlaje said she had written to the Governor urging him not to grant assent to the Bill and added that the President would also be approached if necessary.

Judiciary's role

The Union Minister said the legislation empowered district officials, including Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police, to determine cases involving speech, amounting to an encroachment on the judiciary's role.

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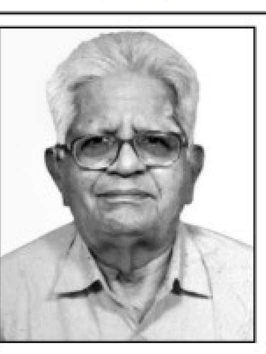
File No. HO/Civil/T&E-E-5265/01/2025 35859 Dt.16.12.2025
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)-II, IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/19/2025-26
NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement
1. Name of the Work : Construction of Swimming Pool in the district of Bargarh, Odisha
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1825.32 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt. 23.12.2025
ii. Prebid meeting Date : 11.30 Hours of 29.12.2025
iii. End Date : 12:00 Hours of dt.13.01.2026
iv. Opening date : 12:30 Hours of dt. 13.01.2026.
Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in e-procurement portal as well as in IDCO website.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil)-II, IDCO, Bhubaneswar
CAD-2770: OIPR-14003/11/0273/2526

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE
DEATH



Subbanarasu Divakaran
(94)
Retired Professor of Structural Engineering and former Dean, M.B.M. Engineering College, Jodhpur
passed away peacefully on 19.12.2025
A distinguished academician and dedicated teacher.
He is mourned by his
Children: Sita Sekhar, Meena Sivaraman, and Ajay Divakaran; Sons-in-law: Sekhar and Sivaraman; Daughter-in-law: Padma; and his Grandchildren and Great-Grandchildren.
Last respects:
8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m Sunday 21st
Venue: F-701, Raheja Residency
Funeral service: 12.00 noon, 21.12.25
Wilson Garden Crematorium

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Tamil Nadu Minister R. Rajendran handing over the first copy of the coffee-table book to L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group, in Chennai on Saturday. Social Justice Monitoring Committee president Suba Veerapandian, Congress leader A. Gopanna and DMK MP Tiruchi N. Siva are at left. S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

Coffee-table book on fairs and festivals of Tamil Nadu released

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Suba Veerapandian, president of the Social Justice Monitoring Committee of the Tamil Nadu government, on Saturday made a strong case for including Pongal in the list of festivals recognised by UNESCO.

Participating in the release of the coffee-table book, *Fairs and Festivals: Traditional and Ancient Customs of Tamil Nadu*, jointly produced by The Hindu Group and the Tourism department, Mr. Veerapandian requested DMK Rajya Sabha member Tiruchi N. Siva to make efforts to secure UNESCO recognition for Pongal. "Navaratri, Durga Puja, Kumbh Mela, and Deepavali have been recognised by UNESCO, but not Pongal," he said.

Mr. Veerapandian said most Tamil festivals were originally linked to changes in seasons but later acquired religious overtones.

Mr. Siva, in his address, said the book would be of great help to people from other States and countries.

Sinthanai Selvan, floor leader of the VCK in the Assembly, said Tamil culture had a long history and that Tamil festivals originated even before the emergence of religious practices.

Congress leader A. Gopanna said the book would encourage readers to visit various places in search of their cultural roots.

Pointing out that festivals from other places had assumed a local flavour, Tamil Nadu Progressive Writers and Artistes Association president Madhukur Ramalingam said the book captured the changing cultural practices, such as head shaving at the Velankanni church.

Tourism Minister R. Rajendran, who released the book, handed over the first copy to L.V. Navaneeth, CEO of The Hindu Group.

T. Christuraj, Director of Tamil Nadu Tourism and Managing Director of TTDC, and A. Sivapriya, Deputy Director of the Tourism Department, also spoke.

The man who made Kerala laugh and think walks away

From landmark comedies to piercing political commentary, Sreenivasan's nearly 5-decade career produced unforgettable characters and screenplays that influenced generations of filmmakers

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

SREENIVASAN (1956-2025)

Leaving behind a decorated filmography – comprising nearly 50 screenplays laced with humour, satire, and realism, and more than 225 films as an actor – Sreenivasan, 69, breathed his last at a hospital in Ernakulam district of Kerala on Saturday morning, after a prolonged struggle with kidney and cardiac ailments.

Curtains have fallen on the nearly half-century-long career of Sreenivasan – who left an indelible mark on the Malayalam film industry as an actor, scenarist, director, and producer – at a time when memes based on his evergreen political satire *Sandesham* are still going viral on social media to interpret the verdict of the recently held local body elections.

If artistic immortality is defined by works that outlive both the artiste and time, then Sreenivasan can rightfully lay claim to it. *Sandesham* is only one of his many films that have stood the test of time. In fact, the list includes several movies that served as sharp social commentaries of their respective eras. While he was not universally accepted, even his critics could not afford to ignore him.

Born on April 6, 1956, at Pattiam near Thalassery in Kannur district, Sreenivasan pursued his passion for cinema by joining the Madras Film Institute after completing his graduation in economics. He fulfilled his dream by making his acting debut in P.A. Backer's *Manimuzhakkam* (1976). His first lead role came three years later in *Sanghaganam*, also directed by Backer. Notable films followed, including *Mela* and *Kolangal* (1980), directed by the legendary K.G. George.

Pivotal moment

The turning point in his career came with his debut as a screenplay writer for filmmaker Priyadarshan's slapstick comedy *Odaruthammava Aalariyam* (1984). A more successful partnership was forged the following year when he teamed up with Sathyan Anthikkad and Mohanlal for *T.P. Balagopalan M.A.*, which won State awards for Best Story and Best Actor.

Unparalleled work

His most acclaimed and criticised screenplay, *Sandesham* (1991), won him the State Award for Best Story. Ironically, it was hailed as a brilliant political satire and dismissed as apolitical at the same time.

Gradually, the stardom of Sreenivasan the writer far outshone that of Sreenivasan the actor, as he churned out hit after hit. He won the State Award for Best Screenplay for *Mazhayethum Munpe* (1995), a mature love story starring Mammootty and Shobhana. His last outing as a screenplay writer was the blockbuster *Njan Prakashan* (2018).

In 1989, he made his directorial debut with the iconic *Vadakkunokkiyanthram*, which he also wrote and in which he played the lead role of a husband plagued by inferiority complex and perpetual suspicion of his attractive wife. The film won three Kerala State Awards, including Best Film. His next directorial venture came nearly a decade later with *Chinthavishtayaya Shyamala* (1998), which won the National Film Award for Best Film on Other Social Issues.

He turned producer with *Kadha Parayumbol* (2007), a poignant story of friendship between two long-lost friends played by Sreenivasan and Mammootty, directed by M. Mohanan.

Later, he also co-produced the hit *Thattathin Marayathu*, directed by his son Vineeth Sreenivasan.

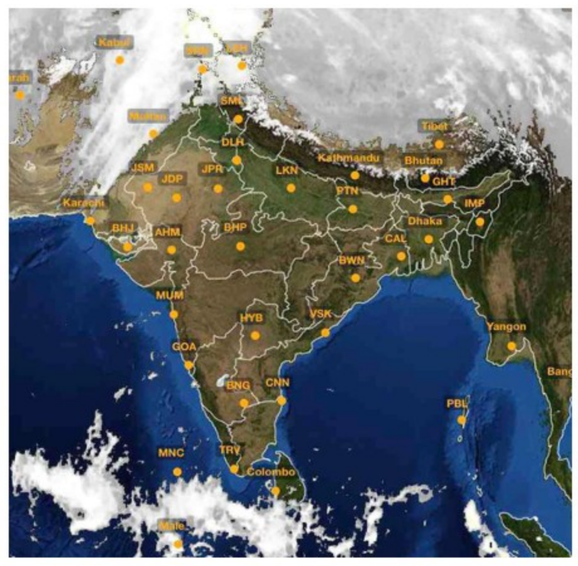
A lesser-known facet of his career was his skill as a dubbing artist. He lent his voice to Mammootty in multiple films, including *Mela*, and dubbed for Tamil actor Thyagarajan in *Oru Muthassikkadha*.

He is survived by wife, Vimala, and sons Vineeth Sreenivasan and Dhyan Sreenivasan, both popular actors and directors.

The cremation will be held at his residence in Kandanadu near Chottanikkara, Ernakulam, at 10.30 a.m. on Sunday.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Cold wave conditions very likely at isolated places over Madhya Maharashtra, South Interior Karnataka and Telangana. Cold day conditions very likely at isolated places over Bihar, east Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Dense to very dense fog very likely at isolated places over east Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.1	15.7	Kozhikode	—	32.0	20.3
Ahmedabad	—	31.5	14.8	Kurnool	—	31.0	15.0
Aizawl	—	25.9	12.0	Lucknow	—	16.0	9.8
Allahabad	—	20.0	10.5	Madurai	—	30.5	17.0
Bengaluru	—	26.0	14.0	Mangaluru	—	32.3	19.2
Bhopal	—	25.3	6.2	Mumbai	—	32.2	20.1
Bhubaneswar	—	27.8	14.0	Mysuru	—	28.0	10.2
Chandigarh	—	18.3	11.3	New Delhi	—	14.4	6.1
Chennai	—	29.7	20.2	Patna	—	16.6	12.8
Coimbatore	—	28.8	17.1	Port Blair	—	30.0	26.0
Dehradun	—	12.3	7.3	Puducherry	—	27.6	19.2
Gangtok	—	17.5	8.0	Pune	—	31.2	12.5
Goa	—	31.7	18.0	Raipur	—	27.0	13.0
Guwahati	—	26.4	13.4	Ranchi	—	22.2	9.1
Hubballi	—	28.0	12.0	Shillong	—	18.1	7.6
Hyderabad	—	18.6	11.2	Shimla	—	17.0	12.2
Imphal	—	23.8	13.1	Srinagar	—	8.4	-0.4
Jaipur	—	28.6	10.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.8	21.2
Kochi	—	30.2	21.6	Tiruchi	—	29.1	18.6
Kohima	—	18.2	7.0	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	22.4	14.8	Visakhapatnam	—	28.0	18.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.71	.86	.41	215	—	
Bengaluru	5	7	.22	176	127	
Chennai	7	.22	.35	295	155	
Delhi	.20	104	105	468	394	
Hyderabad	.19	.21	.71	116	128	
Kolkata	—	.21	.52	272	158	
Lucknow	9	.41	.52	258	159	
Mumbai	5	.60	.14	56	128	
Pune	—	.41	.24	274	264	
Visakhapatnam	.28	153	.39	283	266	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 401 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 27

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

BENGALURU SMART INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED
O/o Superintending Engineer-01, #301, 3rd Floor, Annex-2 Building, GBA Head Office, Narasimharaja Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: SE-1/B-Smile/GBA/TEND/01/25-26 (Call-2) Date: 20.12.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)(Call-2)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only) (Short Term Notification)

The Superintending Engineer-1, B-SMILE, on behalf of Managing Director, B-Smile, Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for appointing Consultant for the work detailed in the table below. RFP Document may be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** under login.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/EMD in Rupees/Period
1	Consultancy Services For Preparation Of "detailed Project Report On Proposed Construction Of Office Buildings At Different City Corporations In Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) Limits". EMD **Rs.450000/-. Period : 60Days.**

Calendar of events: 1) Availability of RFP Document: **20.12.2025 onwards. 2)** Last date for receipt of queries is **23.12.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs.** in e-portal. **3)** Date of Pre bid meeting at the office of Chief Engineer (BSMILE)**: 24.12.2025 @ 15:00 hrs. 4)** Last Date for submission of Proposals: **29.12.2025 up to 17.30 hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals: **31.12.2025, 11.30 hours.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer-1,
B-SMILE Greater Bengaluru Authority

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU
4th Floor, Telephone House Builiding Rajbhavan Road Bangalore - 560001

Form No. 14 (See Regulation 33(2))
DEMAND NOTICE

Notice under Sections 25 to 28 of the Recovery of Debts Due To Banks and Financial Instituions Act, 1993 and Rule 2 of Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act, 1961.

RC 74/2021

CANARA BANK Vs SRI SURYANARAYANA & ANOTHER

Canara Bank, Dibburahalli Branch, Dibburahalli -562 105, Shidlaghatta Taluk, Chikkaballapura District **.... Certificate Holder**
AND
1. Sri Suryanarayana S/o. Karesiddappa, Dabbaravarapalli Village, Chelur Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapur District
2. Smt. Ramasubbamma, W/o. Suryanarayana, Dabbaravarapalli Village, Chelur Hobli, Bagepalli Taluk, Chikkaballapur Distirct. **... Certificate Debtors**

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BENGALURU (DRT 1) in **OA/1189/2017** an amount of **Rs.13,18,895/-** (Rupees Thirteen Lakhs Eighteen Thousand Eight Hundred Ninety Five Only) along with pendentellite and future interest and costs till realization **2**. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under. **3**.You are hereby ordered to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing. **4**.You are hereby ordered to appear before the undersigned within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, for further proceedings. **5**. In addition to the sum aforesaid, you will be liable to pay:(a) Such interests as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the certificate/ execution proceedings. (b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processess and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of the Tribunal on **25.02.2021**

Sd/-(Deepainduvani S), Recover Officer-II
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore, (DRT 1)

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act 1961 read with Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16 (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debt Recovery Officer, nor shall any Civil Court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. (2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

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File No. HO/Civil/T&E-E-5264/01/2025 35866 Dt.16.12.2025

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL)-II, IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Bid Identification No. Civil/EST/18/2025-26

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Swimming Pool in the district of Nuapada, Odisha
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1479.52 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of completion : 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
   i. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of Dt. 23.12.2025
   ii. Prebid meeting Date : 11.30 Hours of 29.12.2025
   iii. End Date : 17:00 Hours of dt.12.01.2026
   iv. Opening date : 17:30 Hours of dt.12.01.2026.

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: **www.tendersorissa.gov.in.** Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in **e-procurement portal** as well as in **IDCO website**.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil)-II, IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-2767: OIPR-14003/11/0271/2526

Odisha State Health & Family Welfare Society
Dept. of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Odisha
Annex Building of SIH & FW, Nayapalli, Unit-8, Bhubaneswar-751012
Phone : 0674-2392480/88

Advt. No. 18/25 Date : 21.12.2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR SELECTION OF SERVICE PROVIDER FOR DIAGNOSIS & REPORTING OF SICKLE CELL ANEMIA & THALASSEMIA USING HPLC/ELECTROPHORESIS METHOD

Sealed proposals are invited from eligible bidders for the Services of diagnosis & reporting of Sickle Cell Anemia & Thalassemia disease at community level for the target population through confirmatory test using HPLC / Electrophoresis method. The intending bidder may download the RFP document from the website **www.nhmodisha.gov.in** (under Link: **"Tender"**).

The bid schedule is as mentioned below :

Date & Time of Pre-bid Meeting	Last date & time of Submission of bid	Date & time of Opening of Technical Bid
26.12.2025, 3.30 PM	20.01.2026, 3 PM	20.01.2026, 4 PM

Any clarification / amendments in above RFP due to decision in pre-bid meeting shall **only** be notified in the **website mentioned above**. The sealed proposals should reach the office of the undersigned by courier / registered post or may be dropped in the tender box, on or before the stipulated date & time of bid submission mentioned above.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals or cancel the bid without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- **Mission Director, NHM, Odisha**

E-615 OIPR-10084/11/0045/2526

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ
ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಆನೇಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
ದೂ: 080-27833730 E-Mail: itstaff_ulb_hebbagodi@yahoo.com | Website: www.hebbagodicity.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂ:ಹೆ.ನ.ಸ/ತಾ.ಶಾ/ಹಾಜರಾತಿ/ಸಿಆರ್/20/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅನುದಾನ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ **ಒಟ್ಟು 07 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ** ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ನಿಯಮ 1999 ಮತ್ತು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2 ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಂತೆ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ:20.12.2025 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03.01.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.01.2026ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಯಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ **ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ರೂ 20.00 ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.49.75 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.**

DMA/2025-26/SE5513
DMA/2025-26/SE6857
DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT52569
DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT52571
DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT52570
DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT52568
DMA/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT52567

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಹರೀಶ್
ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ ಸುಜಾತ ಕೆ.ಪಿ. ರಾಜು
ಉಪಾಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶ್ರೀ ಎಂ ಜಯರಾಮ್
ಸ್ಥಾಯಿ ಸಮಿತಿ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಜೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿ.ಎಲ್,
ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೆಬ್ಬಗೋಡಿ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜೆಪಿ/4582/2025-26

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE MARKET COMMITTEE, JEWARGI
Akhandeshwar Gunj, Bidar-Bangalore Main Road, Jewargi-585310 Dist-Kalaburgi
Email : apmcjewargi@gmail.com apmcjewargi@outlook.com

No:DAM:APMC:JEW:DEV:331:2025-26 DATE: 18-12-2025

:: NOTIFICATION OF E-TENDER ::

The following developmental works sanctioned under the Annual Action Plan for the year 2024-25 of the Committee have been invited for competitive item-wise tenders on e_tender website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** by the qualified contractors registered with the Public Works Department as per the conditions of Standard Tender Document KW-3 (Works costing above 50 Lakhs upto 100 Lakhs) with tender number: **APMC/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT770.** The details are as follows:

1) Date of Pre-Bid & Tender Query Meeting: **02-01-2026 12:30 PM**, 2) Last Date for Receipt of Filled Tenders: **19-01-2026 04:00 PM**, 3) Opening of Technical Bid: **20-01-2026 04:30 PM** 4) Opening of Financial Bid: **28-01-2026 04:30 PM**

1) Name of Work: Proposed 3 works package on Annual Action Plan 2024-25 (1) Construction of 06 nos. of sundry shops in the vacant space adjacent to sundry shops in Jewargi main market premises. (2) Construction of Arch Gate for 4th Main Road in Jewargi Main Market Yard and Improvement of existing gates. 3) Construction of Rainwater Harvesting for new administrative office building, Raitha Bhavan building, 34 sundry shops and 500 MT godown buildings in Jewargi Main Market Yard, 2) Tender Amount: **60,66,152.00** (Inclusive of GST), 3) Earnet Money Deposit Rs. (1.5%): 1,21,323-00, 4) Processing Fee: As per KPPP portal, 5) Period of Completion : 165 Day's (Excluding Mansoon)

The tender processing fee is as per the rules of e_portal and the tender terms and conditions are available on the e_portal. For more information, the same can be obtained from the office during office hours except on holidays or at the **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Secretary
APMC, Jewargi

Sd/- Administrator
APMC, Jewargi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/871/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,(ಪೂರ್ವ&ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ), ಸಿವಿಲ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಸಯ್ಯಾಜಿರಾವ್ ರಸ್ತೆ,
ಮೈಸೂರು ಇ-ಮೇಲ್- eewmccmys@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಇಂ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಸಾ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ-21/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.12.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಒಟ್ಟು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು	ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ
ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು						
1	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-56/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.12.2025	08	202.75	16.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	24.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	26.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ರ ನಂತರ
2	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-57/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.12.2025	09	381.66	22.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	29.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	30.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.26 ರ ನಂತರ
3	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-58/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.12.2025	15	965.12	22.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	29.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	30.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.26 ರ ನಂತರ
GOODS TENDER						
4	ಮೈನಪಾ/ಕಾ.ಅ(ಪೂ&ಪ)/ಟಿ.ಎನ್-55/2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.12.2025	01	11.50	22.12.2025 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11ರ ನಂತರ	29.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.25 ವರೆಗೆ	30.12.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.26 ರ ನಂತರ

ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಿವಿಲ್ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ ಮತ್ತು ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ) ರವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ವಿಶೇಷ ಸೂಚನೆ: ಮುಂದೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಸೂಚನೆ । ಬದಲಾವಣೆ / ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು ಮತ್ತು ಯಾವುದೇ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪೂರ್ವ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ)
ಮೈಸೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಮೈಸೂರು/1405/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2025-26

From Page One

U.S. wants India's nuclear norms globally aligned

"The SHANTI Act may well be called the TRUMP Act - The Reactor Use and Management Promise Act." He also appended a photograph of the page of NDAA 2026 with the reference to India.

SHANTI encourages private companies to participate and potentially allows foreign funding to flow into India's nuclear sector. It removes the links to 'supplier liability' - or the circumstances under which an operator of a nuclear power plant can statutorily claim recourse from a supplier of components if it resulted in a nuclear accident. This is a controversial clause with a history but also said to be one that has frozen foreign participation, particularly American and French nuclear technology, into India.

Rajdhani Express hits herd, 7 elephants killed

The NFR claimed the location, 126 km east of Guwahati, was not a designated elephant corridor. There are nearly 80 designated elephant or animal corridors within the zone, which covers eight northeastern States and parts of Bihar and West Bengal.

"The loco pilot, on observing the herd of elephants, applied emergency brakes. However, the elephants collided with the train," a spokesperson of the country's easternmost railway zone said.

He further said that the passengers of the affected coaches were temporarily accommodated in the vacant berths available in the other coaches. The train left for Guwahati after the affected coaches were detached, he said.

Assam's Forest and Environment Minister Chandra Mohan Patowary said the deaths were a matter of grave concern. "Two senior officials of our department have been directed to take up the matter with the seniormost officials of Indian Railways to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future," he said.

Bibhab Talukdar of Aaranyak, an Assam-based biodiversity conservation organisation, called for better coordination between the railways and the Forest Department to track the movement of elephants and prevent such accidents, particularly during winter.

Dulu Borah of Hati Bondhu (Friends of Elephants), a non-profit organisation focused on resolving human-elephant conflicts, said a thermal camera-based early warning system could have saved the lives of the elephants.

Bangladesh on edge as slain leader's funeral held

The funeral was held at Manik Mia Avenue, near the National Parliament, amid tight security, with the Dhaka Metropolitan Police deploying a large force along with around 1,000 body-worn cameras to manage the crowd.

Abdullah Al Jaber, secretary of Inqilab Moncha, a socio-cultural group co-founded by Hadi, gave a 24-hours ultimatum for the resignation of the Home Affairs Adviser.

Hadi was buried around 3.48 p.m., after which the mourners moved towards Shahbagh intersection, chanting slogans such as "Inquilab Zindabad" and "Delhi na Dhaka-Dhaka, Dhaka."

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, who arrived at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) before the funeral prayer, said Hadi would "never be forgotten". "Dear Hadi, you wanted to take part in the election. In expressing your desire to contest, you also taught us how elections should be conducted. Let us all accept that process," Mr. Yunus said.

Although parts of the country showed signs of returning to normalcy, serious concerns remained following the recent attacks on media and cultural institutions. The offices of newspapers *Prothom Alo* and *The Daily Star*, which were torched on Thursday, resumed publication on Saturday. Leaders of Udichi Shilpi Gosthi, a prominent cultural organisation, accused the interim government of failing to prevent an arson attack on its central office despite prior warnings.

Amnesty International called for an independent investigation into Hadi's killing and subsequent mob violence.

Bangladeshi authorities arrested 10 suspects in connection with the lynching on Saturday.

Special vacation sitting of CJI Bench tomorrow

Justice Kant had said he aimed to have a solution-based approach to pendency. One of them would be to identify crucial cases with important questions of law, pending for years.

The Chief Justice had pointed out that these pending cases had a trickle-down effect, and, in effect, stalled lower courts, or even the Supreme Court, from deciding individual cases with connected issues.

Untying the knot in these core cases through authoritative declarations of the law by Constitution Benches would allow judges, from the Supreme Court to the district courts, to dispose of the connected cases pending with them.

He had proposed to set up nine-judge and seven-judge Benches for such pivotal cases.

West Bengal needs freedom from 'maha jungle raj': Modi

PM urges the people of the State to give their mandate to the NDA, just as Bihar had, to bring about a double-engine govt.; delivers virtual address as helicopter could not land due to dense fog

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

People cheer while listening to the Prime Minister's virtual address in Nadia district on Saturday. PTI

Highlighting the victory of the National Democratic Alliance in the recently concluded Assembly polls in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that now people of West Bengal need freedom from the "maha jungle raj prevailing in the State".

"Last month the people of Bihar gave a huge mandate to the NDA. After the victory in Bihar, I had said that Ganga flows from Bihar to Bengal. Bihar had rejected jungle raj for 20 years... now people of West Bengal need freedom from the maha jungle raj prevailing here," Mr. Modi said while virtually addressing the rally at Taherpur.

Thousands had gathered at Taherpur for Mr. Modi's rally, but the helicopter in which the Prime Minister was travelling could not land at the venue due to dense fog. The Prime Minister in his virtual address over telephone apologised to the people gathered at the rally venue saying that bad weather prevented him from being in their midst.

Accusing the Trinamool Congress of protecting "infiltrators", the Prime Minister said that Trinamool raises slogans of "Go Back Modi" but remains silent when it comes to "infiltrators". Posters with "Go Back Modi" had come up in areas surrounding Taherpur.

"Infiltrators enjoy Trinamool's patronage in Bengal. Trinamool Congress is opposing SIR to save infiltrators from getting identified," Mr. Modi said.

The Prime Minister claimed that the Trinamool Congress government was posing challenges to the development of the State and people were desperately seeking a "double-engine government". The rally was strategically organised by the BJP leadership at Taherpur in Nadia, an area with a significant population of Matua, a community of Hindu Namasudras who have migrated from Bangladesh.

After the first phase of SIR in West Bengal, Matuas who have supported the BJP in the past elections, have faced the most deletions from the voter list.

Later in the day, the Prime Minister took to social media and tried to assure the Matua community that they have the right to live in India with dignity thanks to the Citizenship Amendment Act. "I assure every Matua and Namasudra family that we will always serve them," he posted on social media.

Matua community's fears not assuaged, says Trinamool

Moyurie Som
KOLKATA

Mamata Bala Thakur

Leaders of the Trinamool Congress, including Matua leader Mamata Bala Thakur, on Saturday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of not addressing the Matua community's concerns around their electoral rights and citizenship, hours after the Prime Minister skipped his scheduled programme in West Bengal's Nadia district citing bad weather.

"Today the Prime Minister was supposed to come to the hub of the Matua community. He could not arrive, so he made a virtual speech. In his message, he did not give any reassurances to the Matua community... The Prime Minister had visited Matuas to seek their votes before polls in 2019 and 2021. But we received nothing from him or from his promises of citizenship so far," Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Bala Thakur said on Saturday.

The Matuas, a sect of Namasudra Hindus who comprise West Bengal's second largest Scheduled Caste community, had been coming to India from Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan) since 1947 and continued to do so until after the 1971 war. In West Bengal, the community is now concentrated in border districts such as North 24 Parganas, Nadia, Howrah, and Cooch Behar.

Recently the Matuas, seen as a BJP vote bank in West Bengal, faced anxiety about their citizenship status amid the special intensive revision (SIR) in the State. The BJP held camps to help Matuas and other Bangladeshi refugees apply for citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act, assuring them of citizenship and enrollment as voters by the end of the SIR exercise.

However, a section of Matuas, led by Ms. Thakur, had gone on hunger strike alleging that SIR will disenfranchise Matuas and strip them of their right to vote.

Train mows down three BJP workers bound for PM rally

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Railway officials said the accident occurred due to dense fog and low visibility

Three BJP workers were killed in a train accident in West Bengal on Saturday, while they were on their way to attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's public meeting at Taherpur in Nadia district. Three others were injured.

Railway officials said the accident occurred due to dense fog and low visibility.

Trinamool Congress leaders came down heavily on the BJP over the deaths and called Mr. Modi's event a "rally over the dead bodies of the people of Bengal".

Mr. Modi expressed his condolences to the deceased. "I have come to know that some BJP workers while travelling to the rally, lost their lives in a rail accident. My condolences are with the families of those who have lost their loved ones, and I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured," Mr. Modi said while addressing the rally virtually from the Kolkata airport .

'Tragedy hushed up'

Lok Sabha MP Mahua Moitra said the BJP "ignored" the deaths of its own workers and went ahead with its rally. "Terrible tragedy hushed up at altar of @narendramodi ego. @BJP4India supporters brought from far Murshidabad for PM rally in Ranaghat today. Rally next to rail line. 4 went to answer nature's call & were killed," Ms. Moitra posted on her X handle.

The Trinamool Congress condemned the accident and said the event was organised without safety protocols. "This is exactly what @BJP4India's politics stands for..." the Trinamool wrote on its official page on X.

Congress defending 'infiltrators' by criticising revision of poll rolls: PM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the unveiling of a statue of Assam's first Chief Minister Gopinath Bardoloi in Guwahati. PTI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday accused the Congress of defending 'infiltrators' by criticising the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls.

The Prime Minister also alleged that the Congress and the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) were openly adopting "anti-national agendas" to derail the Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government's efforts to stop infiltration and identify the infiltrators.

In Assam, "infiltrator" is a term used as a synonym for "illegal immigrant" or "Bangladeshi", and has become a major electoral issue. "The Supreme Court has also spoken about removing the infiltrators, but they (Opposition) are giving statements in defence of the infiltrators," the Prime Minister said, while addressing a gathering after inaugurating the new terminal building of the Lokapriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati.

Taking a swipe at the leaders of the Opposition political parties, he said, "these people in every corner of the country are troubled" since the Election Commission of India launched the SIR exercise to ensure clean elections.

"Such people will not protect the interests of the Assamese brothers and sisters. They will allow others to occupy your land and forests. Their anti-national mindset can recreate the violence and unrest of earlier times," Mr. Modi warned.

"Therefore, it is essential that the people of Assam stay vigilant and united, and defeat conspiracies to prevent Assam's development from being derailed," he said, recalling how the State's first Chief Minister, Gopinath Bordoloi, defied the Congress leadership to foil a "conspiracy" to make Assam a part of East Pakistan in 1947.

The Prime Minister said that successive Congress governments in Assam prioritised vote-bank politics over the interests of the indigenous communities. He criticised the Congress for allegedly neglecting Assam's development.

"We are correcting six to seven decades of mistakes the Congress party made in Assam," he said, highlighting a slew of projects worth millions initiated for the northeastern region during the past 11 years.

Unveiling a statue of the State's first Chief Minister, he said the inauguration of the new airport terminal stands as proof of his government's commitment to developing the northeast. Spread over 1.4 lakh square metres, the terminal building is designed to handle up to 1.3 crore passengers annually. India's first nature-themed airport terminal, the airport's design draws inspiration from Assam's biodiversity and cultural heritage.

Mr. Modi lauded the use of bamboo in the construction of the terminal, underscoring that bamboo is an integral part of life in Assam, symbolising both strength and beauty.

Civil society meet calls for de-linking SIR and citizenship

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A national convention held by civil society organisations in New Delhi on Saturday demanded that revision of voter lists should be completely de-linked from the determination of citizenship.

It sought the restoration of all electors unfairly removed from rolls in the special intensive revision (SIR) being held across the country and asked that the practice of striking names off the rolls due to non-submission of enumeration forms be stopped from now on.

The convention, organised in the form of a public hearing by the Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan, the People's Union of Civil Liberties, and the National Alliance for Peoples' Movements, also resolved to "defend universal adult franchise". It called for "time-tested method of house-to-house visit combined with de-duplication software, etc." to be used for regular revisions of the electoral rolls.

Testimonies heard

At the convention, held at the Constitution Club of India in Delhi, a jury comprising former Supreme Court judges, academics, activists, and journalists heard testimonies from people adversely affected by the SIR exercise currently under way in 10 States. People from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, and Bihar spoke at the hearing

Former Supreme Court judges Justices Madan Lokur, left, and A.K. Patnaik at the convention on SIR in New Delhi on Saturday. PTI

about how they had been incorrectly declared dead or not informed properly about the enumeration forms.

Those from Chhattisgarh also noted that villagers displaced during Salwa Judum in the State had also been left out of the exercise. Families of booth-level officers (BLOs) who lost their lives in the process of working for the SIR also spoke at the convention, asking questions about why BLOs were being pressured and rushed to complete this exercise.

Families of BLOs who died during SIR questioned the rush to finish the revision

SIR's motive questioned

The jury that was put together included former Supreme Court judges Justices (retd.) Madan B. Lokur and A.K. Patnaik, academics Professor Nivedita Menon and Professor Jean Dreze, and journalist Pamela Philipose.

In a statement released after the convention, the Yogendra Yadav-led Bharat Jodo Abhiyaan said that the jury "expressed deep reservations about the manner, method and motivation behind the entire SIR exercise".

While Justice Lokur batted for the Election Commission of India to take the public into confidence at "every step of the process", Justice Patnaik said that representatives of the poll body ought to have attended the hearing on Saturday.

He added, "The ill effects of SIR would not stop merely with mass disenfranchisement," noting that the possible linking of electoral rolls with the Aadhaar database might also lead to citizens being disentitled from various welfare schemes.

J&K CM slams rural jobs Bill, but defends remarks praising PM

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Omar Abdullah

Facing criticism from regional Opposition parties for praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday defended his remarks that the Centre had been liberal with funds for the Union Territory.

"I have said this many times, even in the J&K Assembly. Where the Centre helps, I thank them. And where it's wrong, I call it as it is. For example, on Statehood we are left only with complaints against the Centre. I cannot play politics to lie, to mislead or please anyone," he said.

Mr. Abdullah said that Mr. Modi had been liberal with funding for the economically disadvantaged J&K. The remark evoked sharp reactions from leaders of regional parties, who accused Mr. Abdullah of trying to use pleasing language for Mr. Modi.

"Isn't it the same CM *sahib* who won an entire election by branding everybody as an agent of BJP. Those pejoratives he used. Even if a conciliatory line was intended, taking the knee could have been accomplished in a less humiliating manner," J&K Peoples Conference leader Sajad Lone said.

Mr. Abdullah objected to replacing the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill.

"Gandhi's name should not have been removed. Besides, J&K will bear the burden because the Bill has made many amendments that put extra burdens on regions like ours," he said.

Sonia accuses Modi govt. of bulldozing MGNREGA

Congress leader vows to fight against new 'black law'; Centre made every effort to weaken the MGNREGA in past 11 years, jobs scheme had been a source of livelihood for the poor, she adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

> It [MGNREGA] was a scheme related to the national interest and public interest. By weakening this law, the Modi government has attacked the interests of crores of farmers, labourers and the landless rural poor of the country
>
> **SONIA GANDHI**
> Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson

Calling the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill an "attack" on the interests of crores of farmers, labourers, and landless poor in the country's rural areas, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Saturday re-affirmed her commitment to fight against "this black law".

She recalled how the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was passed "unanimously" in Parliament through consensus 20 years ago, and said the new Bill was brought in to "bulldoze MGNREGA... without any deliberation, without consulting anyone, without taking the Opposition into confidence".

In a video message, Ms. Gandhi criticised the government over the Bill, which was introduced and passed in the Winter Session of Parliament amid widespread objections from the Opposition parties.

Ms. Gandhi recalled how the MGNREGA had become "a source of livelihood, especially for the underprivileged, exploited, poor and extremely poor people".

"Through MGNREGA, a concrete step was taken towards the India of Mahatma Gandhi's dreams of Gram Swaraj," Ms. Gandhi said, adding that it had stopped people from migrating for employment, had given a legal right to jobs, and had empowered panchayats.

'Changed arbitrarily'

"But it is very regrettable that recently the government has bulldozed MGNREGA. Not only was Mahatma Gandhi's name removed, but the form of MGNREGA was changed arbitrarily without any consultation, without consulting anyone, without taking the Opposition into confidence," Ms. Gandhi said, adding that the Narendra Modi-led government had made "every effort to weaken MGNREGA" in the past 11 years.

She said the Centre, under Mr. Modi, had done this "by ignoring the interests of the unemployed, poor and deprived in rural areas" even when it had proven to be a "lifeline" for the poor during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Gandhi said that under the new law, the Centre would decide who would get employment and where, and how to avail it – "away from the ground reality".

Asserting the Congress's role in bringing about the MGNREGA, Ms. Gandhi said it "was never a party affair". "It was a scheme related to the national interest and public interest. By weakening this law, the Modi government has attacked the interests of crores of farmers, labourers and the landless rural poor of the country", the senior Congress leader said, adding, "We are all prepared to counter this attack."

Bengal's rural jobs scheme renamed after the Mahatma

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata slams move to replace MGNREGA, asks if we are now forgetting even the Father of the Nation

The West Bengal government has issued a notification renaming its 'Karmashree' scheme to 'Mahatma-Shree' in response to the Centre's move to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employee Act (MGNREGA) with the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee For Rozgar And Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had criticised the Union government's move to replace the MGNREGA and said that her government would rename the State's rural job guarantee scheme after Mahatma Gandhi.

Speaking at a business conclave in Kolkata on Thursday, she said, "I feel ashamed that they have decided to remove Mahatma Gandhi's name from the NREGA programme, because I too belong to this country. Are we now forgetting even the Father of the Nation?" The notification was issued on Friday.

Karmashree was announced in the State's 2024-25 Budget, aiming to guarantee 50 days of wage employment annually for rural unskilled workers with MGNREGA job cards. The agricultural unions of West Bengal, however, claimed that they see no implementation of the scheme on the ground.

Funds to the MGNREGA scheme have been suspended since April 2022 on account of corruption in the implementation of the scheme by the West Bengal government. The Calcutta High Court and later the Supreme Court directed the Union government and the West Bengal government to resume the 100-day work scheme in the State. However, despite the orders, workers are waiting for the resumption of the scheme.

BJP sweeps Itanagar civic poll, PPA wins in Pasighat

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The BJP on Saturday won the civic body election in Itanagar, capital of Arunachal Pradesh, but suffered a setback in Pasighat, the State's oldest urban centre.

Elections to 16 of the 20 wards of the Itanagar Municipal Corporation and eight wards of the Pasighat Municipal Corporation were held on December 15.

BJP candidates won 10 of the 16 IMC wards. The Nationalist Congress Party, the Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), and an Independent followed with three, two, and one wards, respectively.

In Pasighat, the People's Party of Arunachal won five of the eight wards. The BJP won two wards, while an Independent candidate secured Ward 8.

Claims of fake votes, fraud mar local body polls in Maharashtra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The Maharashtra local body polls held on Saturday were marred by allegations of bogus voting, voter list irregularities, impersonation, and cash distribution, prompting police action and special investigations in multiple districts.

In Ambernath, the police detained 208 women allegedly brought from Bhiwandi to cast fake votes. An official from the Ambernath municipal election office said, "A special investigation team has been formed to probe the matter."

In Panvel, a voter list controversy sparked outrage after reports that one man was listed as the father of 268 voters. Many names were linked to non-local youth belonging to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, raising concerns about duplicate entries and phantom addresses, officials said.

In Nanded district's Dharmabad, polling was disrupted after allegations that voters were confined in a marriage hall while money was being distributed. Police rescued the detained voters and dispersed the crowd. The incident led to heated exchanges between leaders of the BJP, Ajit Pawar's NCP, and NCP(SP) at Ward No. 8 polling station.

Cash seizures happened in Akola, Buldhana, Beed, and Pune, with claims of inducements ranging from ₹500 notes to ₹10,000 per vote in some areas.

Counting of votes for all 286 municipal councils and nagar panchayats will take place on Sunday

Congress will go solo in BMC election, contest against BJP, Sena (UBT): party State in-charge

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

> We have fought with MVA allies in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. But these are local body elections... We appeal to all secular, democratic Mumbaikars to support us
>
> **RAMESH CHENNITHALA**
> Congress Maharashtra in-charge

Ending days of speculation over whether the constituents of the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) alliance will jointly contest the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) election on January 15, Congress Maharashtra in-charge Ramesh Chennithala on Saturday announced that the party will go solo in the election. The MVA comprises the Congress, Shiv Sena (UBT), and NCP (SP).

"We will fight against the BJP and Shiv Sena Uddhav group. We appeal to all secular, democratic Mumbaikars to support us," Mr. Chennithala said at a press conference in Mumbai.

The Congress had expressed displeasure over Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray forming a likely alliance for the poll with his cousin and Maharashtra Navnirman Sena president Raj Thackeray.

Reacting to the announcement, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve said the party is gearing up to fight Mahayuti allies BJP and Shiv Sena, which are jointly contesting the poll.

"We [MVA allies] wanted to fight together against them. But if someone wants to fight us, we will fight them too," he said.

NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule said her party will consult its local leaders before reacting to the move.

Earlier, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut had requested NCP (SP) president Sharad Pawar to convince the Congress to fight the BMC poll together.

"We have fought with the MVA allies in the Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. But these are local body elections. Our local cadre want it [going solo]. We have given them permission to do so. We are preparing our manifesto and will bring it to the people of Mumbai. There is corruption. No work is happening. We all know who is responsible for that. We want to highlight it. Mumbai is India's financial capital. No elections were held in the last four years," Mr. Chennithala said.

Thanking the Supreme Court for its order to conduct elections, he said, "Elections are taking place because of Supreme Court. Govt. is directly running BMC, it is interfering in everything. They want to directly run the BMC."

'No confusion'

He said there would be "no confusion" among voters over the realignment in ties of the MVA partners. "People from all regions of India come to Mumbai. The BJP has been dividing people on communal lines. This divisive politics needs to end. That is why Congress should be strengthened," he said. He refused to comment on Mr. Pawar's opinion that the three allies should jointly contest the poll.

Congress leaders told *The Hindu* that the party has been holding meetings with potential candidates. "No approach, no alliance in Mumbai. We have formed a screening committee for choosing candidates. It will be finalised in the next two days," a senior party leader said.

The Congress had earlier expressed clear displeasure about Mr. Uddhav Thackeray and Mr. Raj Thackeray coming together. It had said that its core ideology does not allow it to join hands with divisive and communal forces which spread hatred in the society.

'Quota for ex-Agniveers in CAPF will not affect existing matrix'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The decision by the Union Home Ministry to enhance reservation for ex-Agniveers in the Group C posts of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) from the existing 10% to 50% will not impact the existing caste-based reservation matrix, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

While the recruitment in CAPFs has to adhere to the existing caste-based formula and cannot exceed the 50% cap fixed by the Supreme Court, appointments in the armed forces – the Army, the Navy and the Air Force do not have caste reservation. Agniveers are recruited by the armed forces for a four-year period.

According to the existing norms, there is 15% reservation for the members of the Scheduled Castes (SC), 7.5 % for the Scheduled Tribes (ST) and 27% for the Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the CAPFs, similar to other government civil posts. "The modalities of implementing 50% reservation for ex-Agniveers are still being worked out. Whether it will be a horizontal or vertical reservation is something being looked into," the official said.

As reported by *The Hindu*, on December 19, the Ministry notified that 50% vacant Constable posts in the Border Security Force (BSF) will be reserved for ex-Agniveers. Though exempted from the Physical Efficiency Test, ex-Agniveers will have to appear for written examinations like other regular candidates, the notification said. Class 10 is the minimum educational classification.

The first batch of Agniveers will be eligible for recruitment in the CAPFs in 2026.

The Data on Police Organisations 2024 report says that as on January 1, 2024 there are 5.99 lakh Constables in all CAPFs against the sanctioned strength of 6.29 lakh. In 2023, the number of Constables recruited in the CAPFs stood at 56,202.

Ranbir Singh, general secretary, Alliance of All Ex-Paramilitary Association, said hundreds of young men preparing for the CAPF Constable exams will be impacted by the policy as it will shrink the employment opportunity.

"Had the Agniveers been retained in the Army, they would have had to be given pension under the old scheme. There is no such pension in the CAPFs. This will save the government crores of rupees. The training for the Army and the CAPFs is different. The CAPFs are trained for crowd control and law and order measures... There is no such subject or training in the Army. Will the Agniveers be trained all over again? Hundreds of youth in villages are preparing for Constable posts in CAPFs, they stand to lose with this policy. We are opposed to this policy, it will deprive the deserving candidates in rural areas."

The Agnipath recruitment policy announced in 2022 met with widespread protests and was one of the major issues during the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Following the protests, the Ministry announced that 10% of all vacancies in the CAPFs will be reserved for the armed forces' recruits who have completed four years of service under the Agnipath scheme.

The first batch of Agniveers will be eligible for recruitment in the CAPFs in 2026.

The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking) Sankaramangalam, Kollam-691 583
Phone: 0476-2651215 to 2651217, e-mail: md@kmml.com, URL: www.kmml.com

TENDER NOTICE

For more details, please visit E-Tendering Portal, https://etenders.kerala.gov.in or www.kmml.com

Sl No.	Tender ID	Items
1	2025_KMML_822744_1	Fabrication and supply of Blow Down Tank
2	2025_KMML_822529_1	Supply of Stretch Wrapping Film - 10350 kg
3	2025_KMML_822730_1	Supply of HOT DIP GALVANISED MILD STEEL FLAT
4	2025_KMML_822726_1	Procurement of 1100V grade Power cable Aluminium conforming

Chavara 20.12.2025 Sd/- Managing Director for The Kerala Minerals and Metals Ltd

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Yermarus Thermal Power Station)
(Joint venture of KPCL and BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No: KPCL/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 3800 Dated: 17.12.2025

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Item wise tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the work of **"Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 2nd set of 220V DC, 965AH Plante type battery bank and its accessories including buyback of released batteries at 400KV Switchyard YTPS." EMD: Rs.2,00,000/-.** Last date & time for submission of bids: 31.12.2025 @ 16:00 hrs. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (E-1)**, RPCL/YTPS, Yermarus - 584 134, Raichur Dist., Karnataka. Mobile: +91 94806 82551.

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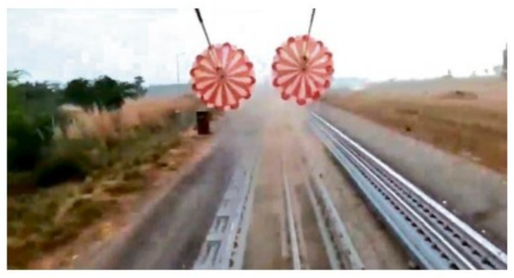
INBRIEF



Drogue parachute tests for Gaganyaan mission successful

A series of qualification tests for drogue parachutes, which have been carried out to develop a deceleration system for the ISRO's Gaganyaan crew module, were successful, the space agency said on Saturday . "These tests were completed at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) in Chandigarh, on December 18 and 19," the ISRO said. The space agency said that a crucial component of this system is the deployment of drogue parachutes, which play a pivotal role in stabilising the crew module and reducing its velocity to a safe level during re-entry. PTI

Police begin process to bring accused in Goa fire from U.K.

The Goa Police have started the process to secure a Blue Corner Notice against British national Surinder Kumar Khosla, an accused in the December 6 nightclub fire that killed 25 people, through Central agencies, a senior officer said on Saturday . He said Mr. Khosla was in Goa when the incident occurred and fled to the U.K., probably the next day. "We have started the process to issue him a blue corner notice to bring him from the U.K. Formalities required to be completed with Central agencies are being initiated," the officer added. The police have so far arrested eight people, including the nightclub owners Saurabh Luthra, Gaurav Luthra, and Ajay Gupta, and five others. PTI

ED quizzes Anil Ambani's son in money laundering case

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Saturday questioned Jai Anmol Ambani, son of industrialist Anil Ambani, for the second consecutive day in a money laundering case linked to an alleged bank loan fraud, officials said. The statements of 34-year-old Anmol Ambani were recorded under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) for the first time on Friday , and the session is continued on Saturday, they said. The ED probe is related to Yes Bank, which had an exposure of about ₹6,000 crore in the Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group as of March 31, 2017, which doubled to ₹13,000 crore within a year. PTI

Bihar hijab row: woman doctor yet to join work

The Muslim doctor whose hijab was pulled down by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar did not join duty on Saturday, the last day of the joining. On December 15, while distributing appointment letters to newly appointed AYUSH doctors. According to her friend, the doctor was supposed to join the duty today at a primary health centre in Sabalpur under Patna Sadar after reporting to district civil surgeon Avinash Kumar Singh. "Today (December 20) by 6 p.m. was the last date to join the duty, but she did not come. However, it does not mean that she cannot join later," Mr. Singh told *The Hindu*.

SUDOKU

				8	4	9	3	
			2		5			4
					9	6		
		3				4		5
4	5						9	8
2		8				1		
		2	5					
6			9		2			
	1	4	3	6				

No.SS6737 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	5	6	7	8	3	4	9	2
8	9	3	4	2	6	1	7	5
2	4	7	9	5	1	3	8	6
9	6	5	1	4	7	2	3	8
3	1	4	8	6	2	7	5	9
7	2	8	5	3	9	6	4	1
6	7	9	3	1	8	5	2	4
4	3	2	6	9	5	8	1	7
5	8	1	2	7	4	9	6	3

Republic Day festivities to highlight *Vande Mataram*

European Union leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa will be the chief guests; EU-India summit to be held on January 27, where the free trade agreement is expected to be finalised

Saurabh Trivedi
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

With European Union (EU) leaders Ursula von der Leyen and Antonio Costa expected to arrive in India next month on the occasion of Republic Day, the government is going ahead with plans to highlight the National Song *Vande Mataram* during the festivities.

According to officials, the Ministry of Defence has directed that the 77th Republic Day celebrations on January 26, where the European Commission and European Council Presidents will be the chief guests, will incorporate a "*Vande Mataram* theme", with a torch relay, and a special flypast.

The events will mark 150 years since the first two stanzas of *Vande Mataram*, which are sung as the National Song, was published in 1875.

Ms. von der Leyen and Mr. Costa are likely to share dias with President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to receive the parade.

While it is customary to invite leaders of one country, not a grouping as the chief guest, the government had also invited the leaders of the 10-nation ASEAN in 2018. In January 2022, the government had to cancel plans to host five leaders of Central Asian countries for the Republic Day, due to a rise in COVID-19 cases at the time.

To increase participation, The Ministry of Culture plans to integrate its campaign portal with the My Bharat portal. FILE PHOTO

On January 27, after the main day events, which include an at-home reception for the chief guests at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the European leaders will join Mr. Modi for the EU-India Summit, where they are expected to finalise the much-delayed free trade agreement (FTA).

The Ministry is also considering a proposal to incorporate the logo of "150 Years of *Vande Mataram*" initiative in invitations and rename enclosures.

The Ministry of Culture also plans to encourage participation in the events by integrating its campaign portal with the My Bharat portal, which has an estimated user base of two crore people.

Nationwide celebration

Officials said alongside the *Vande Mataram*-themed events in Delhi, there will be musical performances by Army bands in cantonments, as well as by school, college and National Cadet Corps (NCC) bands across campuses nationwide to celebrate the song, which became a rallying cry for the Indian Independence movement.

In addition, officials planning the event at Kartavya Path are working on a suggestion to shift the flypast from its traditional slot at the end of the parade to the middle of the event, to "enhance visibility and audience engagement". The flypast too would incorporate the theme, officials said.

The plan to change some of the elements in the Republic Day events is part of a series of decisions made during a meeting chaired by Home Secretary Govind Mohan on October 24 this year, where Culture Secretary Vivek Aggarwal made a detailed presentation. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has been asked to produce 25 one-minute films on the National Song and its author Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

In addition, the committee directed the Ministry of External Affairs to ensure that all embassies and posts worldwide will hold cultural evenings and a "Global Music Festival" on the "Rashtriya Geet" (National Song), while Ambassadors and heads of mission have been asked to contribute articles to local newspapers in countries where they are posted elaborating on the theme.

It is unclear whether the move to rebrand Republic Day events with the *Vande Mataram* theme will be permanent.

Eggs safe for use; cancer risk claims unfounded: FSSAI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Saturday stated that the eggs available in the country are safe for human consumption and that recent claims linking eggs to cancer risk are misleading, scientifically unsupported, and capable of creating unnecessary public alarm.

Responding to reports and social media posts alleging the presence of carcinogenic substances such as nitrofuran metabolites (AOZ) in eggs, FSSAI officials clarified that the use of nitrofurans is strictly prohibited at all stages of production of poultry and eggs under the Food Safety and Standards (Contaminants, Toxins and Residues) Regulations, 2011.

According to the FSSAI, an Extraneous Maximum Residue Limit (EMRL) of 1.0 microgram per kilogram has been prescribed for nitrofuran metabolites solely for regulatory enforcement purposes. This limit represents the minimum level that can be reliably detected by advanced laboratory methods and does not indicate that the substance is permitted for use. "Detection of trace residues below the EMRL does not constitute a food safety violation nor does it imply any health risk," an official noted.

Detection of trace residues below the EMRL does not mean safety violation, the FSSAI said.

On public health concerns, FSSAI cited scientific evidence indicating that there is no established causal link between trace-level dietary exposure to nitrofuran metabolites and cancer or other adverse health outcomes in humans. No national or international health authority has associated normal egg consumption with increased cancer risk, the authority reiterated.

'Isolated findings'

Addressing reports related to the testing of a specific egg brand, officials explained that such detections are isolated and batch-specific, often arising from inadvertent contamination or feed-related factors, and are not representative of the overall egg supply chain in the country. "Generalising isolated laboratory findings to label eggs as unsafe is scientifically incorrect," the clarification stated.

Homebound made to honour marginalised people: Ghaywan

Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

"*Homebound* has been made with the intention to honour the marginalised people and depict the current environment where microaggressions against Dalits and Muslims go unnoticed," filmmaker Neeraj Ghaywan, whose sophomore film made it to the 98th Academy Awards shortlist this week in the Best International Feature Film category, said on Saturday.

Speaking at *The Hindu* Mind event in Delhi, Mr. Ghaywan said it was fitting because the film had its roots in an op-ed piece by journalist Basharat Peer for *The New York Times*.

Produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, the story of a Muslim and his Dalit friend explores the invisibilisation of deprived communities against the backdrop of the 2020 pandemic, and has Martin Scorsese as the executive producer.

Decisions that alter life

"For many of us, Chandan being reminded of his Dalit identity or Shoaib being reminded of his religion could be just a joke or an innocuous comment, but these microaggressions lead to decisions that alter their life because they dehumanise them, noted Mr. Ghaywan.

The filmmaker who emerged on the scene with *Masaan* (2015), which won the prestigious critics prize in the Un Certain Regard category at the Cannes, added that he also wanted to find out why migrants leave their homes across the world. "Why do they go to the cities? It is ironic that they want to be seen and heard. At the same time, they want anonymity. It is a question that we have stopped asking because I think it doesn't matter to us."

Neeraj Ghaywan, director of the film Homebound, during "The Hindu MIND Series" in New Delhi on Saturday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

As one of the few Dalit filmmakers in the country, Mr. Ghaywan, who worked in the corporate sector before switching to cinema, reflected on broader social discourse. "Earlier, untouchability was a thing to shame people; now it is reservation quota. It feels like reservation is a privilege that has been accorded – It is not a poverty alleviation programme. It is a reparation for a 2,000-year-old injustice."

Oscar campaign

Mr. Ghaywan said he did not expect the film to make it to the shortlist because it's a fairly competitive year. "A small film is trying to make a headway into it. I will work hard because it is about representing India. Karan ... is putting all his might into it," he said.

On what surprised him more – the Academy shortlist or the Film Federation of India's backing of Homebound – Mr. Ghaywan pointed to the latter. He expressed gratitude at the FFI's support in making the film the official Indian entry, saying he felt encouraged and positive about the decision.

Addressing the CBFC's cuts to certain important scenes, he said the Board had a dignified dialogue with him, and while the political undertones may be "a little watered down", the friendship – the "soul of the film"– and what it conveys about India's "contemporary environment" remain intact. He added, "It could not have been cut because you cannot censor friendship."

On the road ahead for the Oscar campaign, he said, "Nobody knows the right way. We have international campaign managers who are guiding us on how to proceed. I have spent about a month and a half in the U.S. and London, where we have been doing screenings." In the same vein, he underlined, "It might sound like a cliche, but I think people finding a connection with the film is a bigger win than any award."

Court orders release of chopper scam accused

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Christian Michel James, accused in AugustaWestland chopper scam case, got relief from the Rouse Avenue Court on Saturday after his release was ordered following his application requesting the same on the grounds that he had completed the maximum sentence of seven years in custody in the money laundering case.

His counsel had submitted that investigation in the case, and involvement of Mr. Michel, hasn't completed in the last 12 years.

Mr. Michel, despite bail from the Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court, will remain in jail as his bail plea in another CBI case is pending.

House panel seeks reports from DGCA, others on flight crisis

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC), headed by Congress leader K.C. Venugopal, on Saturday directed the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and other stakeholders to submit reports on the recent flight crisis and related issues.

Sources said senior representatives from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, DGCA, Airports Authority of India, Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, private airlines – including IndiGo's Chief Financial Officer – and pilot associations such as the Federation of Indian Pilots and the Indian Pilots Guild were present.

It is learnt that the pilot associations asserted the crisis could have been averted and that there was adequate availability of pilots. The airline, however, defended itself citing "external factors" and issues related to the crew roster system. The PAC took strong exception to the absence of the DGCA Chairman from the meeting.

Another issue taken up by the PAC was the User Development Fee (UDF), linked to a Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal judgment. The tribunal's ruling could lead to the inclusion of non-aeronautical areas, such as shopping malls, in the calculation of the fee and may impose an additional financial burden on passengers.

Nirav Modi's Bank of India loan case trial adjourned

Press Trust of India
LONDON

A London court has allowed a plea by fugitive diamond merchant Nirav Modi, wanted for fraud and money laundering charges, to adjourn a trial in an unrelated Bank of India unpaid loan case until March over U.K. prison paperwork delays.

The 54-year-old accused was shifted to another prison in October to facilitate an appearance at the High Court in London.

At an online review hearing for the $8-million Bank of India case on Friday, Judge Simon Tinkler partially granted Mr. Nirav's application to adjourn the eight-day January trial by a few weeks until March 23,2026.

CBI arrests Lt. Col. over bribe charge; seizes ₹2.33 crore in cash

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested Lt. Col. Deepak Kumar Sharma, a Deputy Planning Officer (International Cooperation and Exports) with the Department of Defence Productions under the Defence Ministry, on graft charge.

On Friday, the CBI registered a case based on "reliable source information" against Lt. Col. Sharma, his wife, Col. Kajal Bali (Commanding Officer of 16 Infantry Division Ordnance Unit, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan) and others, including a Dubai-based company, on charges of criminal conspiracy and bribery.

The CBI recovered a total amount of ₹2.33 crore in cash. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The CBI recovered the alleged bribe amount of ₹3 lakh and seized ₹2.23 crore in cash from his Delhi house and ₹10 lakh from his house in Sri Ganganagar, in addition to other incriminating material, as alleged. "They are in police custody remand up to December 23," the CBI added.

INBRIEF

IIFL Finance appoints ex-RBI Dy. Governor as chairman

NBFC firm IIFL Finance has appointed former RBI Deputy Governor B.P. Kanungo as non-executive chairman of the board. The board, at its meeting held on Friday, approved Mr. Kanungo's appointment with immediate effect, underscoring its strong confidence in his leadership, independence, and deep regulatory and institutional expertise, IIFL Finance said in a regulatory filing on Friday. Mr. Kanungo brings with him over four decades of experience in central banking, monetary policy, and financial regulation, it said. He served as Deputy Governor of RBI from 2017 to 2021, and was a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). PTI

SEBI group to review non-agri commodity derivatives

Markets regulator SEBI is planning to constitute a working group to review the non-agricultural commodity derivatives segment, its chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Saturday. He added that the working group would be notified shortly. Speaking at the 11th International Convention of the Commodity & Capital Participants Association of India (CPAI), Mr. Pandey said SEBI was also engaging with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to enable the participation of banks and insurance companies in the commodity derivatives market. According to him, enhanced institutional participation will bring in higher liquidity. PTI

Fortis to acquire People Tree Hospital for ₹430 crore

Fortis Healthcare on Saturday said it has inked a pact to acquire Bengaluru-based People Tree Hospital for ₹430 crore. The company has signed definitive agreements for the acquisition of the 125-bedded hospital in Yeshwanthpur, by way of a 100% acquisition of TMI Healthcare Pvt. Ltd., the entity under which the People Tree Hospital business operates. The said acquisition would be undertaken by Fortis' wholly-owned subsidiary International Hospital Limited (IHL), it said in a statement. The healthcare provider said an additional investment of ₹410 crore is planned over the next three years in the facility to further augment bed infrastructure, medical equipment and clinical programmes. PTI

Cotton farmers call for urgent focus on yield-related issues

While growers in Telangana are struggling to get the MSP of ₹8,110 a quintal, in Tamil Nadu, CCI procurement from cotton farmers is nil

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Cotton farmers In Telangana are struggling to get the minimum support price (MSP) of ₹8,110 a quintal as unseasonal and heavy rains have affected the quality of cotton. Jaipal, a cotton grower, said the farmers get just ₹7,800 for a quintal in the market.

"The farmers are getting just about five quintals [one quintal amounts to 100 kg] an acre, where they should have gotten 8-12 quintals. That is the reason we are incurring losses," says Jaipal.

The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has purchased more than 45 lakh bales of cotton this year, since October 1, from the farmers at MSP.

While the farmers who meet the norms of the CCI get the MSP, there are many who are unable to meet the quality standards and also the other norms that the agency prescribes. For instance, in Tamil Nadu, CCI procurement from cotton farmers is nil.

"The daily arrivals are approximately 2.5 lakh bales. Last year, the CCI purchased about 38 lakh bales of cotton at MSP during the first 2.5 months of the season. This year, it has crossed 45 lakh bales. We expect to buy close to 125 lakh bales this cotton marketing season," said Lalit Kumar Gupta, Chairman and Managing Director at the CCI.

The CCI purchased 100 lakh bales of cotton at MSP during the 2024-2025 cotton season.

While the quality of cotton that arrived in the market in October and November was poor because of unseasonal rains in the cotton growing regions, the quality had improved now, Mr. Gupta said.

According to the textile industry and cotton traders, quality is an issue this year because of the rains.

While the textile industry is demanding removal of import duty on cotton, it is also urging the government to address the issues related to cotton yield and seed quality.

Indian MSP for cotton is at least 10% more than international prices. But, area under cotton in 2025-2026 is 3.5% less than last season and the crop size is 1.7 % lesser.

The average yield is 448 kg per hectare which is one of the lowest globally, said sources.

At least 20 countries are having higher yield. For the yield to improve, seed technology and agronomy research need urgent focus so that cotton productivity increases and cotton growers get better earnings, said stakeholders in the cotton sector.

Unseasonal showers: According to the textile industry and cotton traders, quality is an issue this year because of the rains. FILE PHOTO

Pfizer, Cipla announce partnership

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pfizer India and Cipla Limited have announced a partnership, wherein Cipla will now have the sole right to market, distribute and sell cough syrup Corex Dx and Corex LS, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) Dolonex, proton pump inhibitor (PPI) Neksium, and oral antibiotic Dalacin C, in India.

Pfizer will continue to manufacture, source and supply these medicines to Cipla for India.

Meenakshi Nevatia, country president, Pfizer India, said, "At Pfizer, expanding the reach of our medicines for patients is paramount and we are partnering with Cipla to achieve this common mission."

Dalacin C is part of Pfizer Products India Pvt. Ltd.

Sugar mills seek revision of minimum selling price

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Indian Sugar and Bioenergy Manufacturers Association has appealed to the government to immediately revise the minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar so that the mills would be able to pay the farmers and would not incur losses from January.

The Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar was originally introduced in June 2018-19 to address severe price distress arising from excess domestic stocks, global surplus and ex-mill prices falling below production costs resulting in substantial cane arrears.

The sugar mills are facing similar conditions in 2025-26 sugar season. While the MSP has remained unchanged at ₹31 per kg since its last revision in early 2019, the cost of production has risen sharply due to continuous increases in cane prices and other costs, said Deepak Ballani, Director General of the Association.

The FRP has increased from ₹275 a quintal for the sugar season 2019-2020 to ₹355 a quintal. The sugar production cost is about ₹41.66 a kg. The growing mismatch between the cane and sugar prices poses a serious challenge towards timely cane price payments and the overall financial health of the sugar industry.

The domestic sugar consumption softened in the 2024-25 season, declining to 281 lakh tonnes from 290 lakh tonnes in 2023-2024. A recent ISMA study on sugar consumption indicates that demand is expected to grow at just 1.5-2.0% CAGR over the next five years.

Mills will have to pay the farmers within two weeks of procurement of cane. In the first couple of months, they will have funds. But, the situation may turn bad from January if MSP is not revised, he said.

'A weak rupee makes it harder for country to achieve income growth target'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Earlier this week, the Indian Rupee (INR) breached the psychological barrier of 91 against the U.S. Dollar (USD), fuelling speculation that it may hit the 100-mark as trade uncertainties continue. However, experts are divided over whether the sudden depreciation of the rupee is a "matter of concern".

"Yes it is a big concern, as it makes harder for the country to achieve its income growth target with a leaking rupee. For the markets, it reduces the ability to attract overseas capital when its returns are moderate on a higher base. It also pushes a lot of domestic wealth looking at dollar assets through the liberalised remittance scheme (LRS), or gold, the only non LRS dollar asset," said Ajay Garg, MD, Equirus Capital.

"A depreciated rupee also reduces the overall capital available for the economy, which is still at a higher stage of growth, making capital more expensive and therefore adding to the continued capital cost structure for the country," Mr. Garg said.

However, Abhishek Bisen, Sr. EVP and Fund Manager - Fixed Income, Kotak Mutual Fund believes otherwise.

"No, the rupee's recent depreciation isn't considered a cause for alarm as it is largely triggered by tariffs and driven by external forces like global market volatility. India's macroeconomic fundamentals remain robust [ample forex reserves, a manageable current account deficit, and strong GDP growth rate]," Mr. Bisen said.

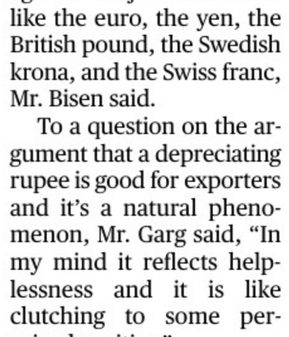
"This decline shall be seen as an aberration and more of an opportunity to come into the Indian capital markets as IGB (Indian Govt. Bonds) has become 6% cheaper [equal to depreciation of INR] keeping other factors unchanged. Had it been due to domestic factors then it would have been a concern," Mr. Bisen added.

According to Mr. Garg, the rupee is depreciating as India continues to have a large current account deficit (CAD) and that puts pressure on the rupee.

Given the fact that the Trump administration is imposing one of the highest tariffs of 50% on India, the rupee experienced one of the highest negative impact, while other major currencies became relatively stronger, which eventually implies that the rupee had also depreciated against major currencies like the euro, the yen, the British pound, the Swedish krona, and the Swiss franc, Mr. Bisen said.

To a question on the argument that a depreciating rupee is good for exporters and it's a natural phenomenon, Mr. Garg said, "In my mind it reflects helplessness and it is like clutching to some perceived positive."

On the outlook for the Rupee, Mr. Bisen said, "We expect the India-U.S. trade deal to be finalised in early 2026. Additionally, we expect improved capital flows in the coming year and consequently, the rupee will relatively appreciate or fall below ₹90 mark against the greenback."



the rupee is depreciating as India continues to have a large current account deficit.

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Chief Engineer (S.C.M) & C.S.C, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.

E-Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_821263_1 1PAC: Rs.2,81,42,000/- Last Date: 29.12.2025 03.00 pm
E-Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_820682_1 1PAC: Rs.6,59,14,500/- Last Date: 05.01.2026 03.00 pm
E-Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_820515_1 1PAC: Rs.2,10,64,000/- Last Date: 05.01.2026 04.00 pm

O/o the Chief Engineer, (Project Execution & Buildings), North Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Kozhikode.

E-Tender ID No.2025_KSEB_819986_1 1PAC:Rs.3,12,56,448/- Last Date: 16.01.2026 05.00 pm

Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E592 E-tender/2025

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TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT **e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**

e-Tenders are invited for procurement and supply of the items **(1)** 15,000 Kgs of Atta **(2)** 35,00,000 Kgs of Bengal Gram Dhall, **(3)** 7,50,000 Nos of Biscuits, **(4)** 15,000 Kgs of White Chenna **(5)** 53,500 Kgs of Roasted Vermicelli, **(6)** 1,60,000 Nos of Denomination Gunny Bags & **(7)** 2,70,000 Kgs of Dried Grapes (Indian Brown) to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams,. For Tender notice and tender details log on to the web site **http:// www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.**

For further details contact Phone Numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555**, FAX No: **0877-2264554.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.329) Date:20-12-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2945600, 2945646
E-mail : edrugs.kmscl@kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No.KMSCL/ED/32/2025 Date :19.12.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

Online bids are invited from manufacturers/direct importers / loan licensees on behalf of Department of Health, Govt of Kerala for the procurement insecticides for Surveillance and Control of Communicable Disease under Plan Fund 2025-26.

Sl. No.	Tender No. and Date	No. of items
1.	KMSCL/ED/INS-PLAN/RC/2025/033 dtd. 19/12/2025	4

The last date and time of online uploading of tenders will be 05.01.2026, 5.00 pm. The date and time of opening of Technical bid will be 07.01.2026 11.30 am. Tenders shall be downloaded and submitted online through the e-tender portal **www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**.

(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, राजस्थान

No. :- F-2(01)Acct/Contract/2025-26/220 - 222 Date :- 16/12/2025

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 64/2025-26

उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, उदयपुर द्वारा निम्नलिखित कार्यो मय डिफेक्ट लाईबिलिटी अवधि के लिये जो कि निविदा प्रपत्र में अंकित है के लिये उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदको से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेण्डरिंग के माध्यम से ऑनलाईन निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है :–

निविदा कार्यो की कुल लागत	:	रूपये 1194.87 लाख (03 कार्य)
ऑनलाईन निविदा प्रपत्र डाउनलोड/ अपलोड करने की अवधि	:	18.12.2025 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 14.01.2026 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक
Online EMD, Tender Fee & Processing Fee जमा कराने की तिथी	:	18.12.2025 को प्रातः 10.00 बजे से 14.01.2026 को सांयः 6.00 बजे तक
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तिथी	:	15.01.2026 को प्रातः 11:00 बजे

विस्तृत विवरण वेबसाईट **urban.rajasthan.gov.in/uitudaipur**, **www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है।

UBN No. : ITU2526WSOB00370

राज.संवाद/सी/25/16096

अधिशाषी अभियन्ता - जल
उदयपुर विकास प्राधिकरण

THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU
REWIND 2025
TRIVIA QUIZ

Thank you

to all our readers for enthusiastically participating in the Rewind Quiz.

Yesterday's Winners:
1. V. Bhanu Prakash, Vijayawada
2. Puja Chowdhury, Guwahati
3. Priyanka.D, Aurangabad

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Indus Valley Civilisation
2. Deepavali
3. Pomona

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PRIME HOTEL / COMMERCIAL PROPERTY at PUDUCHERRY E-AUCTION SALE

Door Nos. 152 and 154, Maraimalaiadigal Salai, Orleanpet, Puducherry (165 km from CHENNAI)

with good Road Frontage and available for sale under SARFEASI Act e-auction

This property is near to Puduchery Transport Terminal Bus stand.

Total Land measuring 35120 Sq.ft (Appx. 80 cents) along with all Hotel / Commercial Building / Shops & frontage on Maraimalaiadigal Salai as well as Subbiah Salai

This building was earlier known as Hotel MASS and ideal for 3/4/5 Star Hotels or conversion to Hospitals/Commercial Complex.

PHYSICAL POSSESSION Order under Sarfaesi Act 13 (4) is available from Hon'ble CJM,Puducherry and pending for execution.

Reserve Price ₹ 53,42,00,000/- Property Id- IOBAVEEPEE01 Auction Id - 212956

e-auction through the service provider: baanknet.com

Last Date & Time for EMD remittance and submission of online tender: **24.12.2025** before 10.30 a.m

DATE & TIME OF E-AUCTION : 24.12.2025 between 10.30 a.m and 12.30 p.m

Contact Authorized Officer: Mr. Abhay Kardam : 87553 64735; Mr. Vinuraj M P : 99434 85875

सीएसआईआर.–संरचनात्मक अभियांत्रिकी अनुसंधान केंद्र
CSIR-STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING RESEARCH CENTRE, CHENNAI
(वैज्ञानिक तथा औद्योगिक अनुसंधान परिषद् Council of Scientific & Industrial Research)
सीएसआईआर परिसर CSIR Campus, तरमणि Taramani, चेन्नै Chennai - 600 113, भारत INDIA
दूरभाष Tel : 044 - 2254 9108 / 4777, 22541238 फैक्स Fax : 044-22542211
ई-मैल E-mail : puroff.serc@csir.res.in

रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ईओआई) आमंत्रण सूचना Notice Inviting Expression of Interest (EoI)

निदेशक, सीएसआईआर–एसईआरसी, प्रतिष्ठित एवं सक्षम बोलीदाताओं से "अत्याधुनिक वास्तविक काल अंकीय संकर नियंत्रण प्रणाली तथा सर्वो मोटर ड्राइव युक्त विद्युत चर्खियाँ के लिए आपूर्ति, स्थापना, संचालन, परीक्षण, प्रशिक्षण एवं प्रलेखीकरण" के लिए रुचि की अभिव्यक्ति (ईओआई) आमंत्रित करते हैं।

The Director, CSIR-SERC invites a Non-Committal Expression of Interest (EoI) from reputed and competent Bidders for the "Supply, Installation, Commissioning, Testing,Training and Documentation for State-of-the-Art Real Time Digital Hybrid Control System and Electrical Winches with Servo Motor Drive".

ईओआई / निविदा दस्तावेज़ भारत सरकार के केंद्रीय सार्वजनिक क्रय पोर्टल (सीपीपीपी) की वेबसाइट से निःशुल्क डाउनलोड किए जा सकते हैं : **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना (एनआईटी) की एक प्रति सीएसआईआर-एसईआरसी की वेबसाइट : **http://www.serc.res.in** पर भी उपलब्ध है।

EoI / Tender Document can be downloaded free of cost directly from the Central Public Procurement Portal (CPPP) of Government of India website: **https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app** A copy of NIT is also available on CSIR - SERC website: **http://www.serc.res.in**.

पूर्व–निविदा सम्मेलन की तिथि **Date of Pre-Indent conference 19.01.2026 @ 11.00 A.M.**
स्थान : टीटीआरएस, सीएसआईआर-एसईआरसी (चेन्नै अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे के सामने), त्रिशूलम, चेन्नै-600 043
Venue:TTRS, CSIR-SERC (Opp. to Chennai International Airport, Trisulam, Chennai-600 043)

अधिक जानकारी/स्पष्टीकरण, नियंत्रक, भंडार एवं क्रय, सीएसआईआर-एसईआरसी, चेन्नै से प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।
Further information / Clarification can be obtained from The Controller of Stores & Purchase, CSIR-SERC, Chennai.

भंडार एवं क्रय नियंत्रक
Controller of Stores & Purchase
सीएसआईआर-एसईआरसी **CSIR & SERC**

सीपीपीपी निविदा प.सं / CPPP Tender ID } **2025_CSIR_258893_1**

M BG-BGE

Counting electrons reveals thorium's nuclear tick in solid clock

Vasudevan Mukunth

Atomic clocks keep time by counting the 'ticks' of electrons moving between two energy levels. Physicists have long wanted to count a nuclear tick instead. A nucleus is more shielded than an atom's outer electrons, so its energy levels are expected to be less sensitive to disturbances.

The main candidate for a nuclear clock is thorium-229 (^{229}Th). Its nucleus has an unusual excited state that's only about 8.4 electron-volts (eV) above the ground state: low enough for a vacuum-ultraviolet (VUV) laser light to excite it directly.

A practical problem has been detecting that excitation in solids. The most direct method is to look for the VUV photon emitted when the nucleus relaxes. But in many materials the thorium nucleus relaxes mainly by internal conversion: instead of emitting a photon, it transfers its energy to an electron in the host material, which may get kicked out.

Researchers from Germany, the U.K., and the U.S. recently reported a workaround by treating internal conversion itself as a signal. They used a laser-based method and ^{229}Th in thorium dioxide, whose energy gap is about 6 eV, below the 8.4 eV nuclear energy. The idea was to excite thorium nuclei with VUV laser pulses, then count the electrons that escape when excited nuclei decay.

When the VUV pulse hits a surface, it produces a burst of ordinary photoelectrons that can overwhelm an electron detector. So the researchers used timed electric fields to suppress this burst, then extracted the delayed electrons associated with nuclear decay.

They also used electric fields to guide electrons from the target to a detector.

The scan revealed a clear resonance at 2,020,407.5 GHz, consistent with previous studies. The team also inferred an internal conversion lifetime of 12.3 μs for their sample, implying the corresponding clock would be off by one second only every 15.8 billion years.

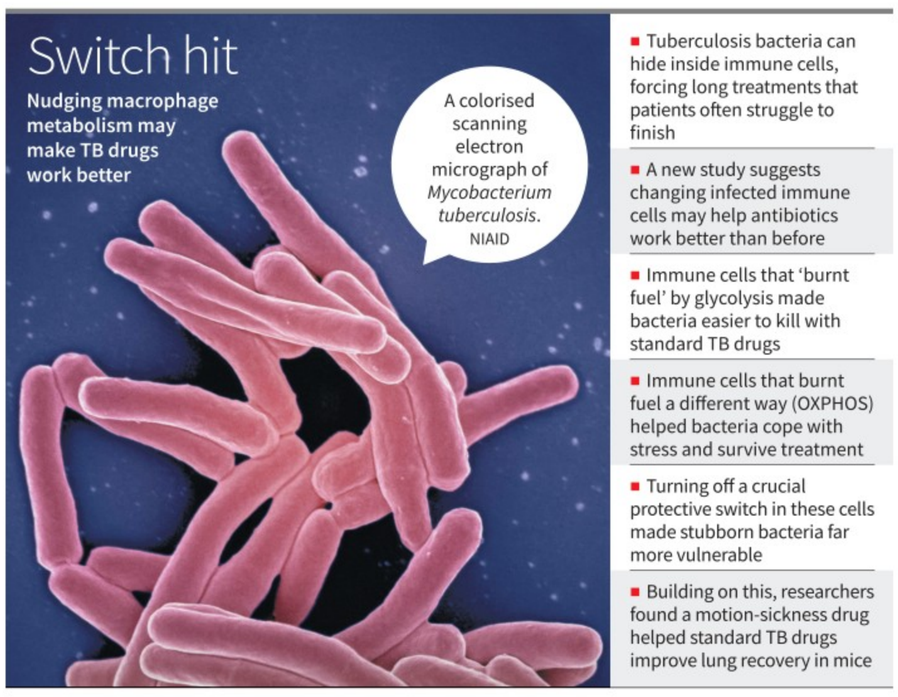
The study's success has profound implications. In a commentary accompanying the paper, independent researchers from Texas A&M University wrote that the work "extends the available toolbox of materials for realising stable, high-precision nuclear clocks as well as sensors that can probe the nuclear environment of different materials."

The findings also pave the way for substantial miniaturisation because a nuclear clock using this design can be monitored by measuring the current of the emitted electrons, rather than the complex techniques used today.

Rewiring macrophage metabolism may shorten TB treatment: study

Indian researchers have reported that macrophage metabolism shapes the tolerance of the TB bacterium to drugs; by pushing infected immune cells to generate energy using glycolysis, they were able to render bacteria more vulnerable

Shweta Yogi



The bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB) also infect macrophages, the very immune cells meant to capture and destroy them. Once inside, the bacteria create a niche where they can persist for months or even years, tolerating even powerful antibiotics. This is a major reason TB treatment requires months-long drug regimens, leading to poor patient adherence, extended antibiotic exposure, and drug resistance.

Now, in a study in *Nature Communications*, researchers from around India have suggested that the key to outsmarting the bacteria, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb), may not lie in new antibiotics but in rewiring the metabolism of host macrophages, potentially paving the way for more effective anti-TB therapies.

Macrophages use several strategies to kill microbes, including bursts of oxidative stress in the form of unstable molecules that can damage cellular components. Amit Singh of the Centre for Infectious Disease Research at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, and the study's corresponding author said they previously observed striking metabolic differences among Mtb cells growing inside macrophages. Specifically, bacteria with a greater ability to counter oxidative stress were markedly more drug-tolerant than those with weaker defenses.

The researchers infected mouse macrophages with Mtb engineered to carry a fluorescent sensor: its readout rose when the bacteria were more oxidised and fell when they were more reduced. When they compared the gene activity patterns of macrophages carrying the two Mtb populations, they noted a pattern. Macrophages with reduced Mtb relied on oxidative phosphorylation (OXPHOS), a process by which mitochondria generate energy using oxygen. On the contrary, macrophages with oxidised Mtb had higher glycolysis.

These distinct metabolic states influenced how well Mtb tolerated antibiotics against both drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB, the researchers said.

In Dr. Singh's words: "Glycolytically-driven macrophages harbour impaired mitochondria and experience higher oxidative stress, making the bacteria more oxidised and susceptible to anti-TB drugs. Conversely, bacteria within OXPHOS-driven macrophages... can better neutralise oxidative stress, allowing them to tolerate drugs more effectively."

The team also identified a regulatory molecule that linked macrophage metabolism to bacterial survival. Macrophages harbouring reduced, drug-tolerant Mtb expressed high levels of NRF2, a protein that boosted antioxidant responses. When they inhibited NRF2, oxidative stress increased and macrophages shifted towards glycolysis. This metabolic switch made previously tolerant bacteria far more susceptible to isoniazid, a frontline anti-TB drug.

"We were surprised to find that NRF2 actually supported a drug-tolerant niche for Mtb, by maintaining high OXPHOS and low oxidative stress conditions," Vikas Yadav, a former PhD scholar and the study's first author, added.

According to Raghunand R. Tirumalai, senior principal scientist at the CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, who wasn't involved in the study, the findings raise the possibility that Mtb may actively manipulate NRF2 levels to ensure it survives antibiotic treatment. Identifying the bacterial factors involved, he added, could be an important direction for future investigations.

When researchers suppressed OXPHOS, oxidative stress increased, macrophages shifted towards glycolysis, and Mtb became more sensitive to antibiotics. On the other hand, conditions that favoured OXPHOS supported a reduced state and allowed Mtb to tolerate drugs better, showing how host cell metabolism directly affected drug response.

The researchers also looked for existing drugs that could steer Mtb-infected macrophages towards glycolysis. This led them to meclizine. In infected macrophages, the team reported, meclizine spiked oxidative stress and glycolytic activity. It also dramatically lowered Mtb's tolerance to frontline anti-TB drugs.

In a mouse model that mirrored human TB, combined treatment with isoniazid and meclizine produced an additional 20x decrease in the bacterial load. "This observation opens up avenues to identify additional host-targeting compounds that have the potential for switching macrophage metabolism to a drug susceptible state, and can synergise with conventional anti-TB drugs that target the bacterium," Dr. Tirumalai said.

Nisheeth Agarwal of the Translational Health Science and Technology Institute in Faridabad and also an independent researcher said, "Given the rising incidence of antimicrobial resistance in Mtb, such therapies provide a relatively promising approach as adjunctive anti-TB therapies by potentiating their effects or enhancing drug availability."

The next challenge, per the researchers, is to understand how meclizine can be paired with existing treatments to maximise bacterial clearance and prevent relapse, without adding side effects.

Shweta Yogi is a freelance science writer

Netflix, streaming, and shape-shifting nature of cinema

DECODED

John Xavier

As Hollywood creatives brace for a merger between Netflix and Warner Bros., an old adage comes to mind – "the medium is the message." Coined in the 1960s by Canadian philosopher and media theorist Marshall McLuhan, the phrase warned against new technologies that don't merely deliver content, but reorganise perception and cultural priorities. Mr. McLuhan's perspective was shaped by the arrival of television in the post-WWII world. It was the time when TV sets were finding prominent positions in people's living rooms. This new media was reframing how people viewed the world and made sense of it.

While the 60s might seem like a long time ago, the imprint new forms of technology leave on us continues to remain. The rise of streaming platforms like Netflix, in that sense, demands scrutiny not for what they show us, but for how they quietly reshape the conditions under which culture is produced and consumed.

The recent turbulence around Netflix's expanding dominance, including its deepening relationship with legacy studios like Warner Bros., has reignited anxieties about the future of cinema.

While much of the public debate around this merger seems to centre around the fate of movies in theatres, I think a much deeper transformation is underway. And this goes beyond the distribution of content.

Cinema, for most of its history, was structured around scarcity and collectivity. Films arrived at fixed times, in designated spaces, and demanded attention from a gathered audience. The act of going to the movies was communal, ritualised, and public. Streaming dissolved these constraints. It replaced shared time with on-demand access, public space with private screens, and narrative immersion with perpetual availability.

The act of going to the movies was communal, ritualised, and public. Streaming dissolved these constraints. REUTERS

And such a medium that prioritises convenience, speed, and personalisation would inevitably alter how stories are experienced. Binge-watching collapses narrative pacing; algorithms flatten discovery into prediction; and constant access erodes the sense of anticipation that once framed cultural events.

In this setting, content becomes less an occasion and more a background condition – always present, rarely central. This is why the Netflix-studio convergence unsettles cinema owners and cultural workers alike.

When films are conceived primarily for living rooms and mobile screens, scale, duration, and visual language adapt accordingly. The medium exerts pressure long before the audience presses play.

There is also a subtler consequence. Streaming platforms encourage solitary consumption. Each viewer inhabits a personalised catalogue. Over time, this fragments the common reference points that once allowed films to function as a public conversation.

What was once collectively encountered became an individually curated experience.

While streaming has clearly expanded access, diversified storytelling, and weakened long-standing gatekeepers in cinema, this medium also excels in diluting attention and creating viewing siloes.

This will in turn will erase the social centrality of cinema and remove the assumption that stories are encountered together.

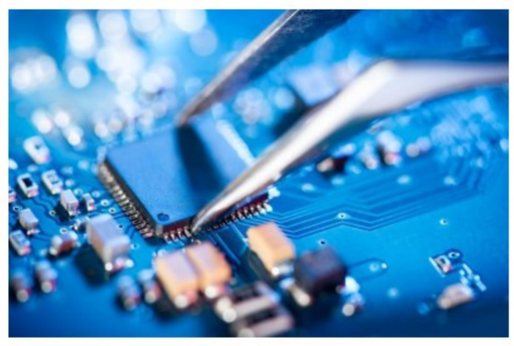
This won't lead to the death of movies, but a quiet reconfiguration of how culture fits into daily life. And these are changes we will barely notice. That's because the viewer will remain fixated on the doom-scrolling effect of a content catalog curated by an algorithm. And by the time the content becomes visible to the viewer, the medium has already done its work.

Beyond this deal, Netflix's real legacy will not be measured by subscriber counts or awards, but by how thoroughly it has normalised a new way of consuming media – one that trades shared experience for on-demand access, and collective attention for personalised flow.

SNAPSHOTS

LA birds changed bill shape during COVID lockdown

Researchers measured the bills of dark-eyed junco birds on the UCLA campus before, during, and after the COVID-19 lockdown. Birds that hatched in 2021 and 2022 developed longer, slimmer bills that resembled wildland birds rather than the usual short, thick 'urban' bills. As campus life resumed, the bills of birds hatched in 2023 and 2024 returned to their original size and shape. The team suggests this rapid adaptation reflected changing access to food waste and foraging opportunities.



New chip showcases virtues of light-based computing

Researchers have reported a chip called LightGen that uses light instead of electricity to generate images. It combines a photonic encoder, an optical latent space, and a photonic generator. The 'latent space' is a compact representation of an image's features, carried as a pattern of light in optic cables, so the system can change features without converting back and forth into electronic signals. The team said LightGen is a hundred-times faster and more energy efficient than the best electronic chips.

Heat, humidity combo poses higher stunting risk in S. Asia

Based on analysing the records of around 2 lakh children in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal, researchers have linked exposure to hot and humid weather to around 4x larger drops in children's height-for-age scores than hot weather alone. The link persisted even after adjusting for seasonal and community differences. The team used climate projections to estimate that hot-humid conditions by 2050 could add 30-37 lakh stunted children in the region.

Question Corner

Spicy reaction

Why does spicy food make our nose run?

When we eat spicy food containing chillies, a substance in them called capsaicin binds to receptors on the nerve endings in our mouth and nose. When a specific molecule attaches to them, they send a signal that triggers a response. Capsaicin attaches to receptors that normally react to actual heat. However, even when the food isn't hot, the nerves respond as if it were, creating a false alarm. This causes the nasal lining to initiate a protective process called neurogenic inflammation. As part of this, the nerves release signalling molecules that relax nearby blood vessels. This boosts blood flow and encourages the mucus-producing glands in the nose to release watery mucus, which makes our nose run. The mucus helps to wash away the irritant. Capsaicin is oily and doesn't dissolve in water, which is why drinking water does little to help. Milk works better because it contains casein, a protein that wraps around oily molecules and helps wash them away. Sugar interacts with capsaicin and reduces its ability to cling to nerve receptors.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Where does India stand on child marriage?

Will India be able to end child marriage by 2030? How has it managed to reduce it? What are the key schemes for girls?

Priscilla Jebaraj

The story so far:

The Union government marked the first anniversary of its Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat Abhiyan earlier this month with a 100-day awareness campaign for a country free of child marriage, as part of its commitment to the UN to end child marriage by 2030.

What is the global situation?

The fifth UN Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Within this SDG, Target 5.3 is to eliminate all harmful practices, including child marriage, as well as early and forced marriages, and female genital mutilation. Progress on child marriage is monitored using the indicator of the proportion of women between the ages of 20 and 24 years who were married before they turned 18. Girls Not Brides, a global partnership, warns that the child marriage target will also impact other SDGs. "Unless we make significant progress on ending child marriage, we will fall short on at least nine of the SDGs, including those related to poverty, food security, health, education, gender equality, economic growth, climate action, and peace and justice," it said. In 2023, UNICEF estimated that 64 crore girls got married in childhood, with a whopping third of them in India alone. It added that progress needs to happen 20 times faster than it has been to reach the 2030 target.

Experts note that legislation has limited impact without a simultaneous shift in social norms, especially with respect to the education of girls

What is the situation in India?

India has made tremendous strides in reducing child marriage, dropping from 47.4% in 2005-06 to 26.8% in 2015-16, a sharp decline of 21 percentage points over a decade, according to data from the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). Progress slowed thereafter, with child marriage rates dropping just 3.5 percentage points over the next five years to reach 23.3% in 2019-21. More concerning, the progress has varied widely by geography. The highest child marriage rates among women aged 18 to 29 years was seen in West Bengal (42%), Bihar (40%), and Tripura (39%), according to NHFS data. The percentage of women marrying before the legal minimum age of 18 years is lowest in Lakshadweep (4%), Jammu & Kashmir (6%), Ladakh (6%), Himachal Pradesh, Goa, and Nagaland (7% each).

There are also disparities on the basis of higher education and income. The UN Population Fund's analysis of NFHS data shows that 48% of girls with no education were married below 18 years of age in comparison to only 4% among those with higher education. Also, 40% of girls from the lowest quintile of the household wealth index married before they became adults, in comparison to just 8% of those from the highest quintile.

What action is being taken?

The Prevention of Child Marriage Act was passed in 2006, and national child marriage rates have halved since then. The Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 has also helped prevent child marriage. However, experts note that legislation has a limited impact without a shift in social norms, especially with respect to the education of girls, which has the highest impact on raising the age of marriage.

The Bal Vivah Mukt Abhiyan portal records that, as of December 20, 54,917 child marriage prevention officers have been appointed across the country to conduct awareness activities and act on child marriage complaints. In the year since the campaign began, it has prevented 1,520 reported instances of child marriage either through persuasion or administrative action, with Madhya Pradesh and Haryana recording the highest figures. However, it also records that 198 child marriages were not prevented.

The Centre's flagship Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme aims to address the declining child sex ratio through empowerment measures, especially promotion of education, though effective implementation has been patchy on the ground. Laadli schemes offer financial support to families with girl children from birth, and steps are being taken to increase the enrolment of girls in school, with measures such as cycles for safe transport to better sanitation in schools.

What about changing legal age of marriage?

The Union government proposed to raise the minimum age of marriage for women to 21 years to bring them at par with men, and to pave the way for women to complete their higher education, and have greater skills, maturity and independence when they get married. However, Opposition MPs sought greater scrutiny of the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill. Critics warn that without social reform, a mere legal change could simply criminalise many communities, given that a staggering 61% of women aged 20 to 24 years married before they turned 21 years.

Why does the govt. want to replace MGNREGA?

Besides the name, what are the changes in the Viksit Bharat Guarantee For Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill? Who were the biggest beneficiaries of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act? Why is the Opposition upset?

Sobhana K. Nair

The story so far:

On December 18, three days after the government circulated the Viksit Bharat Guarantee For Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or VB-G RAM G Bill to replace the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA), Parliament passed the Bill despite protests from both the Opposition and civil society. The Opposition accused the government of not conducting any consultations before passing the legislation.

How did MGNREGA originate?

In 2005, Parliament passed a national rural employment guarantee Act. By 2008, it was extended to all districts. After 2009, it was officially renamed the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

In *The Politics of Poverty Reduction in India – The UPA Government, 2004-2014*, James Chiriyankandath et al write that after the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government's victory in 2004, a small group of distinguished and progressive civil society leaders, retired civil servants, and intellectuals joined the National Advisory Council (NAC), chaired by Congress president Sonia Gandhi. Only a limited agenda had been fixed for the initial meeting of the NAC, but two of its members – civil society leader Aruna Roy and the economist Jean Drèze – arrived with detailed plans for two new initiatives: a Right to Information Act and an ambitious employment guarantee programme for the rural poor.

The initial draft of MGNREGA emerged from the NAC's meeting on August 19, 2004, only a month after its first meeting. However, the Bill that was sent to Parliament deviated greatly from the NAC draft. A provision calling for the extension of the employment guarantee to the entire country within three years had been removed. The government was given the power to opt out of the Act's requirement so that it was, in effect, no longer a guarantee. Its universal nature was replaced with a means-tested approach, in which only families designated as living below the poverty line could participate.

The new Bill increases the financial burden on States and gives the Centre greater control

This largely weakened Bill went to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Rural Development, which was headed by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Kalyan Singh. Civil society organisations mounted demonstrations in New Delhi and elsewhere. The activists grouped around the "Right to Food Campaign," a collective of committed citizens that fought for the adoption of rights-based legislation. The committee eventually recommended that most of the original provisions of the Bill be restored. The government accepted the recommendations, and the Bill passed in 2005.

In rage: Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, along with other leaders, protest against the VB-G RAM G Bill in New Delhi on December 19. PTI

How was MGNREGA unique?

It gave every rural household the right to demand 100 days of employment per year – unskilled manual labour on modest wages. The wage rates notified in 2025-26 ranged from ₹241 (Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh) to ₹400 (Haryana). It was meant to save the poor from complete destitution, a fall-back option. It was unique because it was universal and without any limitations. It did not target any special social category such as Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. Unlike many Indian programmes, it was not targeted at people holding 'Below Poverty Line' cards. With the hugely disputed metric of measuring poverty, this was a great advantage. Anyone willing to work was able to access it.

Latest estimates show that there are 12.61 crore active workers who rely on the scheme. More than half of the MGNREGA workers are women. On average, women's participation has been around 58% in MGNREGA over the last five years. According to an India Human Development Survey, about 45% of female MGNREGA workers were either not working or worked only on a family farm before MGNREGA. Thirty-five per cent of the total workforce are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Studies have shown that consumption among Dalit and Adivasi households increased during the agricultural lean season by as much as 30%.

MGNREGA's role has also been well documented during the COVID-19 pandemic. A survey led by Azim Premji University assessing MGNREGA's impact during COVID-19 found that in the surveyed blocks in Karnataka, more than 60% of households felt that MGNREGA had contributed to the development of the village.

Not having to migrate was chosen as the most important reason for the continuation of MGNREGA, and more than 8 out of 10 respondents recommended that MGNREGA should provide 100 days of work per person in a year instead of 100 days of work per household.

Why has government bought in a new Bill?

Union Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed Parliament that MGNREGA was riddled with several deficiencies, including rampant corruption and misuse of funds by State governments. Though there have been incidents of pilferage, these were implementation issues. MGNREGA had been equipped with one of the most robust social audit mechanisms and a transparent IT-based system where every step was recorded, from the demand registered, work done, payment transfers, and so on.

What are the differences between the two?

The new Bill marks a shift from a "demand-driven framework" to a "supply-driven scheme." Under the new system, allocations will be capped within a fixed budget determined by the Union government based on "parameters" not yet specified, and employment will be provided only in rural areas notified by the Centre. While the Bill increases the number of guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125, it also raises the financial burden on States from the current 10% share to 40% of total expenditure.

Under MGNREGA, the Union government was responsible for 100% of the labour wages and 75% of the material wages. In practice, this translated to a 90:10 cost share between the Centre and the States. However, Section 22(2) of the VB-G RAM G Bill says that "the fund-sharing pattern between the Union government and the State governments shall be 90:10 for the north-eastern States, Himalayan States/Union Territories (Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir), and 60:40 for all other States and Union Territories with legislature." While this increases the financial burden on States, the new Bill also gives the Centre greater control over where and how the scheme will be implemented. Section 4(5) states: "The Central government shall determine the State-wise normative allocation for each financial year, based on objective parameters as may be prescribed by the Central government." Section 5(1) empowers the Union government to "notify rural areas in a State" where the scheme will be implemented. This is a departure from MGNREGA, which was universal.

Another significant departure from MGNREGA is that the new Bill allows for a blackout period, pausing the programme during peak agricultural seasons to "facilitate availability of labour."

Will new Act aid India's nuclear development?

What are the contours of the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Act? Which existing pieces of legislation is it replacing? What is the nuclear capacity it is targeting? Is India depending on Small Modular Reactors for its nuclear vision?

Jacob Koshy

The story so far:

Parliament has brought into force the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India (SHANTI) Act which repeals legislation that governs nuclear activity – the Atomic Energy Act, 1962, and Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage (CLND) Act, 2010.

Why is SHANTI significant?

SHANTI encourages private companies to participate and potentially, allow foreign funding to flow in India's nuclear sector. Currently, only public sector enterprises can build and operate nuclear power plants in the country. India has plans to increase its current nuclear capacity from 8.8 GW (or about 1.5% of the total installed) to 100 GW by 2047 and thereby increase the contribution of nuclear power to generated electricity from the current 3%. State-owned nuclear power utilities have projected that they will add about 54 GW with the rest, presumably, from private companies.

What are the major differences in SHANTI?

Given nuclear energy's chequered history with atom bombs, there is tight scrutiny of the movement of nuclear fuel (uranium) because of the possibility of it being diverted for producing weapons-grade plutonium. Accidents such as the Three Mile Island disaster in 1979, Chernobyl nuclear meltdown in 1986, and the Fukushima core meltdown following the tsunami in 2011 have contributed to extreme caution and restrictions in all aspects of nuclear plant operations. Currently, the global consensus is that in case of an accident, a plant operator must compensate victims commensurate with the level of damage. The agreement is that victims must be compensated immediately without waiting for ascertaining the causes and those responsible for the accident. Following this, however, the plant operator – if it can establish that it was not its management but rather faulty equipment, provided by a supplier, that led to the catastrophe – can claim recourse.

The global consensus is that in case of an accident, a plant operator must compensate victims commen-surate with the level of damage

New law: Science Minister Jitendra Singh in Parliament on December 17. ANI

The erstwhile CNLD allowed operators to claim recourse from a supplier of equipment under three instances: if a) the supplier and an operator have an explicit agreement (b) the nuclear incident has proved to be due to the suppliers or their equipment's fault; (c) the nuclear incident has resulted from deliberate intent to cause nuclear damage. In SHANTI, clause (b) has been done away with. Despite the Indo-U.S. nuclear deal of 2008 that allowed India access to uranium and international nuclear technology (restricted, because of its nuclear tests of 1974 and 1998), American, and French makers of reactors were hesitant because as 'suppliers' they could in theory be held liable for billions of dollars. With the elimination of clause (b) and even the deletion of the word 'supplier,' this 'problem' vanishes. Ironically, in 2010, when the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was in the Opposition, it insisted on such a clause and Congress parliamentarians pointed this out during the debate. The BJP-led government's laconic response to this was that nuclear technology had changed and "changing times" required adapting to new realities.

Does SHANTI load the dice against operators?

The earlier laws enabled those affected by a nuclear accident to claim compensation from a nuclear plant operator for an amount up to ₹1,500 crore. Were nuclear damage to exceed this, the Centre would chip in through an insurance pool up to ₹4,000 crore. SHANTI goes for a graded approach. Only operators of plants above 3,600 MW are liable for a ₹3,000 crore penalty; from 3,600 MW to 1,500 MW, the amount is ₹1,500 crore; from 1,500 MW-750 MW, it is ₹750 crore; from 750 MV-150 MV, it is ₹300 crore; and it is ₹100 crore for plants under 150 MW. All India's plants are currently 3,000 MW or lower. Science Minister Jitendra Singh, who piloted the legislation in Parliament, said this gradation was meant to "not scare off" potential private sector participants. During the debates, it was pointed out that the costs of reparations often went into billions of dollars, much more than what these caps suggested.

Will SHANTI spur India's nuclear vision?

The original vision of Homi Bhabha, the father of India's atomic energy programme, was to provide for India's energy security through nuclear power as well as make up for India's scarcity of uranium through the use of thorium. This involves, in Stage 1, building and making pressurised heavy water reactors which uses natural uranium (U-238) to produce plutonium and energy. In the second stage, by using 'fast breeder reactors,' more plutonium and uranium-233 is made along with energy. In the final stage, U-233 is combined with the plentiful thorium to make electricity and create a self-sustaining U-233-and-thorium power-generating system. India has not yet reached the second stage; it only has a prototype Fast Breeder Reactor. Delayed for 20 years, it was to be active in 2025, but now the commissioning has been further pushed to September 2026. For its nuclear goals, India is looking to rely on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs). They are smaller versions of existing reactors in the U.S. and France that will need enriched uranium-235 (which India lacks), and produces all the radioactive elements – plutonium, strontium etc. – that India's stage 1 produces. Just as modern airplanes or iPhones are built component by component across the world and assembled centrally, SMRs too will be built in the same way. Though smaller, they also produce less electricity per unit than a large reactor. They also do not address the problem of nuclear waste better than large reactors though some of them have incorporated better designs that can automatically cause a plant to shut down in case of a threat. While SMRs might help produce electricity, they don't necessarily help with India's quest to use thorium as fuel.

PROFILES

The quiet climb to the helm

Nitin Nabin

The appointment of the 45-year-old Minister from Bihar as the BJP's new national working president, close on the heels of the NDA's big victory in the State Assembly elections, signals a generational shift within the party organisation

Nistula Hebbar

A lot has been said about why five-term Bihar MLA and State Minister Nitin Nabin has been chosen as the new working national president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), with a promotion to the full-time post of party president in the new year.

Much of this chatter, however, centres on factors that are, for want of a better word, ascriptive. At 45, Mr. Nabin is the youngest-ever BJP president (working or otherwise). His elevation signals a generational shift in the ruling party. He is also the first leader from Bihar to hold the post, an important marker after the BJP-Janata Dal (United) alliance won a big mandate in the recently concluded Assembly elections.

His community background – a Kayastha, an upper caste but not numerically significant in electoral terms – has also been seen significant, in that it neither alienates marginalised communities nor unsettles dominant social groups.

During the year and a half it took to settle on Mr. Nabin, the RSS, the ideological mothership of the Sangh Parivar, was said to favour a more senior, seasoned successor to the current BJP president, J.P. Nadda. Mr. Nabin, though now associated with the RSS, didn't have the customary stints in the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the RSS's student wing, or in other frontal organisations, unlike Mr. Nadda and most other senior leaders of the party.

Clearly, the new working president's youth and background suggest that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were the prime movers behind his selection.

Born in 1980, the year the BJP was founded, Nitin Nabin grew up in Bihar where his father Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha was a BJP MLA. Widely respected within the BJP in Bihar, the late Sinha represented Patna (West) in the Bihar Assembly, but is not believed to have harboured any political ambitions for his son.

After completing his matriculation at St. Michael's in Patna, Mr. Nabin was, as was common in middle class families in Bihar in the 1990s, sent to Delhi for further schooling at Col Satsangi's Kiran Memorial Public School (CSKM), a residential and day-boarding institution where he completed his Class XII studies.

He then went on to study engineering at the Birla Institute of Technology (BIT) in Mesra, Jharkhand, with no plans to enter politics. In a twist of fate, one that now seems a recurring feature in Mr. Nabin's life, he suffered a bereavement while in the fourth and final year of his engineering course, with the death of his father. In 2006, having abandoned his studies during that period of family crisis, he contested and won the Patna (West) byelection, held after his father's passing. The seat was first offered to Sinha's widow, Meera Sinha, but she urged Mr. Nabin to take the plunge.

That seat, after delimitation, is now known as Bankipore, from where Mr. Nabin has remained undefeated to this day. With his entry into the Assembly, he also began his quiet climb through the party's organisational ranks, securing a place in the BJP's National Executive, and taking on roles in its youth wing, the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), eventually serving as president of its Bihar unit until 2019. "He was always conscientious, and affable, and very low profile, hardly ever pushing himself forward. When he was nominated for a fellowship to the United States while in the BJYM, he was shocked that he had been noticed enough," said a former colleague of Mr. Nabin from the BJYM.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

In the limelight

The first time this largely below-the-radar political ascent drew wider attention was in 2010, when Mr. Nabin, along with another BJP leader, Sanjeev Chaurasia, put up posters across Patna thanking the then-Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi, for the ₹5 crore relief sent by the State government after the 2008 Bihar floods. The move irked the BJP's alliance partner and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, who made a point of returning the amount and expressing his displeasure by cancelling a dinner he was to host for BJP leaders during the saffron party's National Executive meeting in Patna.

While the BJP and the Janata Dal (U) tangoed in a will-they-won't-they alliance for much of the next decade and a half, Mr. Nabin had chosen his side and stuck to it. Despite this (or perhaps because of it), he was inducted in 2021 as Minister for Roads in the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in the State, and a month ago, he took oath as Minister for Urban Development, Law and Justice.

Within the party, his low-key style marked him out early for organisational responsibilities. In 2019, he was given charge of Sikkim, where he played a part in unseating five-time Chief Minister Pawan Chamling, the longest-serving Chief Minister in India, and securing an NDA victory in the State.

It was, however, another serendipitous assignment that brought him to the attention of Union Home Minister Amit Shah: his appointment as the BJP's election co-in-charge in Chhattisgarh in 2023. Mr. Nabin's ability to work with – and extract results from – the party's second rung of leadership in the State, as it took on then-Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, who had appeared invincible, impressed Mr. Shah.

"Raman Singh was the towering leader in the State, but Nitin Nabin reached out to leaders like Vijay Sharma and O.P. Chaudhary, drawing them out of their hesitancy to not just win the polls but also assert the generational shift that happened in Chhattisgarh BJP as well," said an associate of Mr. Nabin.

Fate and ability

Mr. Shah fuelled anticipation around Mr. Nabin during the recent Bihar polls, when he visited the latter's home in Patna for the Chhath festivities, sparking rumours that he might be made Deputy Chief Minister of the State – little knowing that a far bigger role was in store for him.

Mr. Nabin's ascent to the top job is, therefore, a mix of fate and ability. His challenges, however, will only grow from this point on: his youth will have to signal enthusiasm rather than inexperience, and his easy manner must reflect authority rather than accommodation. He will need to prove that he was not merely in the right place at the right time, but also the right man for the job.

THE GIST

- In 2006, having abandoned his studies after his father's passing, Nitin Nabin contested and won the Patna (West) byelection — his first electoral victory
- That seat, after delimitation, is now known as Bankipore, from where Nabin has remained undefeated to this day
- With his entry into the Assembly, he also began his quiet climb through the party's organisational ranks, securing a place in the BJP's National Executive, and eventually serving as president of its Bihar unit until 2019

Man of the streets

Sharif Osman Hadi

The Bangladesh youth leader, who was shot on December 12, had played a key role in turning the July uprising into a movement against what he called 'cultural fascism'

Kallol Bhattacherjee

ILLUSTRATIONS: SAAI

The tumultuous month of July 2024 saw the emergence of several student activists who provided organic leadership to a powerful popular movement that overthrew the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Sharif Osman Hadi, who died in Singapore on Thursday at age 32, after being shot in Bangladesh on December 12, was among those who took to the streets in July, though the uprising did not bring him immediate prominence. That came later, on September 27, 2024, when a well-known journalist returned from a five-and-a-half-year exile in Turkiye.

On that day, Hadi led a team of activists to Hazrat Shah Jalal International Airport in Dhaka as Mahmudur Rahman, who had been targeted by Sheikh Hasina's government for his journalism, returned on a Qatar Airways flight and delivered an emotional speech atop a truck. It was the first time Dhaka witnessed the organisational energy with which Hadi could marshal a spontaneous public event. In the months that followed, Hadi rose to prominence by articulating a plan to transform the July-August uprising into a concrete political project.

At the heart of his appeal, Hadi kept his identity as a Bengali Muslim (Bangali Mussalman). His language was rooted in the anti-colonial heritage of Bengal and south Asia as well as what he perceived as "India's cultural hegemony over Bangladesh".

Student activists who led the uprising against Ms. Hasina went on to form two major streams in recent Bangladesh politics. One stream, led by Asif Mahmud Shajib Bhuyan, Mahfuj Alam and Nahid Islam, joined the interim government under Muhammad Yunus, while the other, consisting of Hasnat Abdullah and Sarjis Alam, gave shape to the National Citizen Party (NCP). Hadi belonged to a third group that did not get into the government nor did they get accommodated in the NCP. This group provided muscle power and filled multiple voluntary organisations that gave life to the anti-Hasina movement.

In the meantime, Hadi, along with fellow travellers Ziaul Hasan, Rafe Salman Rifat and Afroja Tuli, formed Inquilab Cultural Centre and Inquilab Mancha. Hadi believed that over the past 16 years, Bangladesh was ruled by a form of "cultural fascism", implemented by Ms. Hasina, with India's support.

In October 2024, the idea of a July Charter summing up the principles for a new road map of Bangladesh was floated by the student activists. The Charter was launched on the first anniversary of the downfall of Ms. Hasina on August 5, 2025.

Break with the past

Hadi's politics preferred a clean break with Bangladesh's past beginning with 1971 and in that he was placed against both the Awami League and an assortment of forces that Inquilab Mancha describes as the "deep establishment". Hadi's campaign was one of the factors that pushed the interim government to ban the activities of the Awami League.

His opposition to the Awami League and Sheikh Hasina, however, did not prompt Hadi to embrace all anti-Hasina forces of the July 2024 uprising. He called for a greater say for Jamaat-e-Islami and the BNP, as well as for other "July warriors" like him, in Bangladesh's politics, but he had difficulty in accepting any singular political position. Though he defined his politics through the Islamist lens, his recent speeches indicated significant divergences with Jamaat and other hardline groups on issues such as gender and inclusiveness.

The problem between Hadi and other Islamists is best illustrated by the fact that the national poet, Qazi Nazrul Islam, known both for his mildly Persianised Bengali as well as Hindu devotional songs, was one of the defining influences on Hadi and Inquilab Mancha.

As he built pressure on the interim government for holding a referendum on the July Charter ahead of the general election, his differences with the BNP became clearer. The BNP spoke openly against attempts to reverse the legacy of the Liberation War, indicating their discomfort with Hadi's tilt for structural changes that could have damaged the two-party dominant system of Bangladesh, indirectly benefiting Jamaat.

Before being shot on December 12, Hadi had started campaigning for the coming election from Dhaka 8 constituency. The choice of this constituency had pitted him against BNP strongman Mirza Abbas, a former Minister in the Khaleda Zia government of 2001-06.

Jamaat and other Islamists used Hadi's funeral to appropriate his legacy, but in reality he walked alone. His differences with fellow travellers were underscored by the fact that he was buried near the grave of Qazi Nazrul Islam, the icon of an inclusive Bangladesh.

The Pinochet fan

José Antonio Kast

Chile's next President, its most right-wing leader since the Pinochet era and an admirer of the dictator, promises a Trump-style approach to governance

Sruthi Darbhamulla

Chile's next President is hardliner José Antonio Kast, marking the latest conservative shift in South America, where right-wing leaders recently prevailed in national elections in Bolivia and Ecuador, as well as the midterms in Argentina.

The 59-year-old seasoned politician defeated leftist candidate Jeanette Jara in the presidential runoff, winning 58% of the vote. Ms. Jara, Labour Minister under the outgoing President, Gabriel Boric, won 41.84% of the vote. This marked Chile's first presidential election with mandatory voting and automatic registration of eligible voters.

Mr. Kast was born in Santiago in 1966 to German immigrants; his father was a Nazi party member and army lieutenant from Bavaria, who decamped to South America after the Second World War and set up a business in Paine. Mr. Kast has stressed that his father was forced to enlist.

As a law student at the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Mr. Kast was an admirer of General Augusto Pinochet, the military dictator who seized power in a 1973 coup. In 1988, a referendum was held to determine Pinochet's continuity in power; Mr. Kast campaigned for the yes vote. He said in later years that if Pinochet had been alive,"he would have voted for me".

The Pinochet ties ran deeper. His elder brother Miguel Kast was a Minister and Central Bank president during Pinochet's regime, mooting for neoliberal economics as part of a grouping of Chilean economists known as the 'Chicago Boys'.

Mr. Kast's entry into politics came later. He first practised law and founded a legal firm. After meeting conservative thinker Jaime Guzmán, Mr. Kast entered local politics in 1996. He ran for Mayor of the city of Buin, coming in second and becoming a councilman. In 2002, he entered the Chamber of Deputies, representing the right-wing Unión Demócrata Independiente (UDI).

In 2016, he resigned to run for presidency as an independent candidate, garnering less than 10% of the vote. He ran again in 2021, this time under the banner of the hardline Republican Party that he founded in 2019. He lost to Mr. Boric, but gained 44% of the vote.

In 2025, Mr. Kast was more prepared. The Chilean public was concerned about increasing crime rates and immigration, and Mr. Kast's far-right, anti-immigration platform resonated with them. While Chile remains one of the safer countries in South America, a rise in organised crime and economic turbulence prompted increasing disaffection towards Mr. Boric's liberal policies, and a dip in his approval ratings. Mr. Boric was precluded from running for a second term, but a vote for leftist candidate Ms. Jana may have been viewed as a continuity vote for his policies.

'Order and security'

Promising to create "order, security and trust", Mr. Kast outlined measures reminiscent of Donald Trump's immigration rhetoric: the building of border walls and electric fences, detention centres and increased military presence on borders, particularly those to the north with Bolivia and Peru. Mr. Kast also mooted the idea of a force modelled on the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to root out illegal immigrants, numbering over 330,000 and primarily from Venezuela.

He pledged a crackdown on crime, saying he would deploy the military force to high crime areas. Mr. Kast also said he would build more prisons, reportedly inspired by El Salvador President Nayib Bukele and his prison complex design.

A devout Catholic, Mr. Kast is against same-sex marriage and abortion, saying previously that he would repeal abortion rights (which are limited). His platform did not spotlight these issues, however, giving greater weight to national security and economic measures. Mr. Kast assured a return to a free-market economy, with deregulation and corporate tax cuts. He also promised spending cuts worth $6 billion within 18 months.

His policies place him even further to the right than the last right-wing President, Sebastian Pinera of the UDI, who voted against Pinochet in the 1988 referendum and had presided over the legalisation of same-sex marriage. "Here, no individual won, no party won – Chile won, and hope won," Mr. Kast said in his victory speech. "Chile will once again be free from crime, free from anguish, free from fear."

Mr. Kast will be sworn in on March 11, and has already met with Mr. Boric at La Moneda, the presidential palace in Santiago. Mr. Kast will have his work cut out with no absolute majority in either house of Congress. Mr. Kast married María Pía Adriasola Barroilhet in 1991, and has nine children, including José Antonio Kast Adriasola, an elected member of the Chamber of Deputies.

KINSHASA

UN urges Rwanda to leave Congo, extends peacekeeping mission

AFP

The UN Security Council on Friday urged Rwanda to withdraw its forces from eastern Congo and extended the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo for a year, as fighting in the region escalated despite a peace deal. It also renewed the peacekeepers' mandate, keeping about 11,500 military personnel in the country. AP

BRASÍLIA

Brazil court rejects new Bolsonaro appeal against coup conviction

AFP

A Brazilian Supreme Court judge on Friday rejected a fresh appeal by jailed former President Jair Bolsonaro against his coup conviction, declaring it inadmissible. Mr. Bolsonaro, 70, began serving a 27-year sentence in November after the country's highest court declared he had exhausted all appeals. AFP

GAZA CITY

Gazans mourn six killed in Israeli shelling on shelter for displaced

AFP

Dozens of Palestinians gathered at a Gaza City hospital on Saturday to mourn six people, including children, that the civil defence said were killed by the Israeli shelling of a shelter for displaced people. The Israeli military said late on Friday that troops had fired at "suspicious individuals to eliminate the threat". AFP

TAIPEI

Taiwan attacker planned assault that killed 3, injured 11: authorities

REUTERS

Taiwanese authorities said on Saturday the suspect who killed three people and injured 11 others in knife and smoke-grenade attacks in the island's capital had planned the assaults and set fires at other locations earlier in the day. The suspect, identified as Chang Wen, fell to his death from a department store building in Taipei. AP

U.S. military says it struck over 70 Islamic State targets inside Syria

Jordanian forces assisted the American troops in carrying out the attack, according to the Central Command; Hegseth calls it a 'declaration of vengeance' rather than a new war, and warns of continued strikes against further threats to Americans

Stanly Johny

Retaliatory strike: A U.S. Airman preparing an A-10 Thunderbolt II for flight, in support of Operation Hawkeye Strike, on Friday. AP

The U.S. military said on Friday it carried out massive air strikes on Islamic State targets inside Syria, in retaliation for the killing of two American soldiers last week.

American fighter jets, attack helicopters and artillery stationed in Syria fired more than 100 munitions at more than 70 suspected Islamic State locations across central Syria, the U.S. military's Central Command said in a statement.

"Earlier today, U.S. forces commenced OPERATION HAWKEYE STRIKE in Syria to eliminate ISIS fighters, infrastructure, and weapons sites in direct response to the attack on U.S. forces that occurred on December 13th in Palmyra, Syria," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth wrote in a social media post. But he signalled that the attack was a one-off retaliation rather than the beginning of a new prolonged campaign. "This is not the beginning of a war – it is a declaration of vengeance. The United States of America, under President Trump's leadership, will never hesitate and never relent to defend our people."

Jordanian forces assisted the American troops in carrying out the attack, according to the Central Command.

President Donald Trump, who had earlier said he would respond to the killing, said Syria's interim leader, Ahmed al-Sharaa (formerly Abu Muhammad al-Jolani), was fully on board.

Two U.S. soldiers and one civilian interpreter were killed in the central Syrian city of Palmyra when they came under an ambush on December 13. These were the first American casualties since the fall of President Bashar al-Assad's regime in December 2024. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack, but U.S. officials claimed that the Islamic State was responsible.

Mr. Hegseth warned on Friday that the U.S. would continue military strikes if its troops come under further attacks. "As we said directly following the savage attack, if you target Americans – anywhere in the world – you will spend the rest of your brief, anxious life knowing the United States will hunt you, find you, and ruthlessly kill you," he wrote in his post.

8 dead, dozens wounded in Russian strike on Odesa

Associated Press
KYIV

Critical hit: A truck burns at the site of a Russian strike in Ukraine's Odesa region on Friday. REUTERS

Eight people were killed and 27 wounded in a Russian missile strike on port infrastructure in Odesa, southern Ukraine, late on Friday, Ukraine's Emergency Service said.

Some of the wounded were on a bus at the epicentre of the strike, the service said in a Telegram post on Saturday. Trucks caught fire in the parking lot and cars were also damaged.

The port was struck with ballistic missiles, said Oleh Kiper, the head of the Odesa region.

Moscow did not immediately acknowledge reports of the deadly attack. The Russian Defence Ministry said on Saturday morning that over the previous day, it had struck unspecified "transport and storage infrastructure used by the Ukrainian Armed Forces," along with energy facilities and those supplying Kyiv's war effort.

Elsewhere, Ukrainian drones hit a Russian oil rig, military patrol ship and other facilities, Ukraine's General Staff said in a statement on Saturday.

The nighttime attack on Friday hit the Russian patrol ship *Okhotnik*, according to the statement posted on Telegram.

The ship was patrolling in the Caspian Sea near an oil and gas production platform. The extent of the damage is still being clarified, the statement added.

A drilling platform, operated by Russian oil giant Lukoil, at the Filanovsky oil and gas field in the Caspian Sea was also hit.

Imran Khan and wife sentenced to 17 years in corruption case

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

A Pakistani accountability court on Saturday sentenced jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan and his wife Bushra Bibi to 17 years imprisonment each in the Toshakhana 2 corruption case.

The case is about alleged fraud in state gifts, which the former first couple received from the Saudi government in 2021.

Special court judge Shahrukh Arjumand announced the judgment in the case in Rawalpindi's high-security Adiala Jail.

Mr. Khan and Ms. Bushra were awarded 10 years' rigorous imprisonment under Section 409 (criminal breach of trust) of the Pakistan Penal Code and seven years under different Sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The court also imposed a fine of PKR 16.4 million on each of them.

Both convicts can file appeals in the High Court against their convictions.

Justice Department releases limited set of files of Epstein sex trafficking probe

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

This undated, redacted photo released by the Justice Department shows former President Bill Clinton with an unknown person. AP

The Justice Department released thousands of files on Friday about convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, but the incomplete document dump did not break significant ground about the long-running criminal investigations of the financier or his ties to wealthy and powerful individuals.

The files included photographs of famous people who spent time with Epstein in the years before he came under suspicion, including some candid snapshots of Bill Clinton, who flew on Epstein's jet and invited him to the White House in the years before the financier was accused of wrongdoing. But there was almost no material related to another old Epstein friend, President Donald Trump, aside from a few well-known images, sparing the White House from having to confront fresh questions about a relationship the administration has tried in vain to minimise.

The records, consisting largely of pictures but also including call logs, grand jury testimony, interview transcripts and other documents, arrived amid extraordinary anticipation that they might offer the most detailed look yet at nearly two decades worth of government scrutiny of Epstein's sexual abuse.

Trump names new head of U.S. forces in Latin America

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump has nominated a new head of U.S. forces in Latin America, according to a statement on Friday, after an admiral stepped down from the role early.

Pentagon chief Pete Hegseth announced in the statement that Mr. Trump had appointed General Francis L. Donovan to head the U.S. Southern Command, a role that oversees the major U.S. military buildup taking place in the Caribbean.

The appointment of Gen. Donovan, currently the vice commander of the Pentagon's Special Operations Command, would need to be confirmed by the Senate before he can take up the position.

The previous Southern Command head Admiral Alvin Holsey announced in mid-October that he would leave his position, and had reportedly expressed concerns about U.S. strikes on alleged drug boats.

Sport

Dhakshineswar steers Kites to the title

WTL

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Joy unbound: Kites team members celebrate their triumph. K. MURALI KUMAR

Dhakshineswar Suresh starred for Aussie Mavericks Kites as it beat AOS Eagles 22-19 to win the fourth edition of the World Tennis League, at the S.M. Krishna Stadium here on Saturday.

Going into the final rubber against compatriot Sumit Nagal, Dhakshineswar had the responsibility to guard a slender 15-13 lead for his team. And the 25-year-old played a fine set, which culminated with a perfect tie-break that he won to four points.

On the day, Dhakshineswar won two of three matches he played, and carried a side that had looked down and out after losing the first two round-robin fixtures and had sneaked into the final by the narrowest of margins.

Earlier in the evening, another Indian Shrivalli Bhamidipaty impressed for the Eagles, both in her singles contest versus Marta Kostyuk and the doubles encounter partnering Frenchman Gael Monfils against Kostyuk and Dhakshineswar.

The 24-year-old Shrivalli was the better player against Kostyuk in the initial phase, even breaking the World No. 26's serve once.

The Ukrainian 23-year-old eventually broke down Shrivalli's power-packed game by working the angles and using top-spun balls, but not before the Indian ensured that the holiday crowd had a home name to chant.

The result (final):

Aussie Mavericks Kites bt AOS Eagles 22-19 (Marta Kostyuk bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 6-4; Kostyuk & Dhakshineswar Suresh lost to Shrivalli & Gael Monfils 3-6; Nick Kyrgios & Dhakshineswar bt Sumit Nagal & Monfils 6-3; Dhakshineswar bt Nagal 7-6).

Hodge. AFP

Hodge takes WI past the follow-on mark

Agence France-Presse
MOUNT MAUNGANUI

Kavem Hodge scored his second Test century as the West Indies avoided the follow-on in the third Test at Mount Maunganui on Saturday. At stumps on the third day, the West Indies was 381 for six.

The scores: New Zealand 575/8 decl. vs West Indies 381 for six in 113 overs (John Campbell 45, Brandon King 63, Kavem Hodge 109 batting, Alick Athanaze 45, Justin Greaves 43).

Haaland sends City to the top, Chelsea fights back

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
NEWCASTLE

Erling Haaland fired Manchester City to the top of the Premier League by beating West Ham 3-0, while Chelsea fought back to salvage a 2-2 draw at Newcastle on Saturday.

Chelsea remains in fourth.

Goals from Julian Brandt and Maximilian Beier lifted Borussia Dortmund to a 2-0 home win over Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday and up to second in the Bundesliga table.

The results:

Premier League: Newcastle 2 (Woltemade 4, 20) drew with Chelsea 2 (James 49, Joao Pedro 66); Bournemouth 1 (Semenyo 67) drew with Burnley 1 (Broja 90); Brighton 0 drew with Sunderland 0; Manchester City 3 (Haaland 5, 69, Reijnders 38) bt West Ham 0; Wolves 0 lost to Brentford 2 (Lewis-Potter 63, 83).

Eye-catching: Pedro, centre, caps off a solo effort for Chelsea's second past Newcastle. REUTERS

Bundesliga: Cologne 0 lost to Union Berlin 1 (Schaefer 90+1); Wolfsburg 3 (Pejcinovic 13, 49, 69) lost to Freiburg 4 (Treu 5, Grifo 56-pen, Seelt 71-og, Scherhant 78); Stuttgart 0 drew with Hoffenheim 0; Hamburg 1 (Sambi Lokonga 19) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Larsson 26).

On Friday: LaLiga: Valencia 1 (Duro 52) drew with Real Mallorca 1 (Costa 23).

Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 2 (Brandt 10, Beier 90+7) bt Borussia M'Ggladbach 0.

RESPONSIBILITY

Playing in a home World Cup a good challenge: Suryakumar

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav admitted that playing in a home World Cup could be a challenge, but one that he enjoys. "It is a good responsibility for me, a good challenge and a good motivation to play in front of the home crowd. We tried, we did the same thing in 2023 ODI World Cup and what we felt is (something) I can't forget".

AN ASSET

Rinku gives more depth in the middle-order, reckons Agarkar

PTI

India's chief selector Ajit Agarkar said Rinku Singh was picked in the squad for the ICC T20 World Cup as it gives a bit more depth in the lower-middle-order. "Rinku (Singh) has come in, who gives us a little bit more depth in the lower-middle-order. It's about combinations, so someone has to miss out," Agarkar said.

READY TO GO AGAIN

After ODI WC win, Harmanpreet looks to hit the ground running

K.R. DEEPAK

After 48 days on the road with a slew of advertisements, felicitations and endorsements following India's ODI WC win, Harmanpreet Kaur & Co. are looking forward to returning to the field. "It was hectic, but I want these kinds of schedules after every WC. We enjoy being on the field, so we're looking forward to being back".

CAPTAINSPEAK

'We're counting on the familiarity with Sri Lanka's cricketing stock'

K.R. DEEPAK

Harmanpreet Kaur is counting on India's familiarity with Sri Lanka's cricketing stock ahead of the opening T20I of a five-match series in Visakhapatnam. "They have a balanced team, but their batting is still quite dependent on Chamari (Athapaththu). They have a good spin attack that has dominated in Asian conditions".

Gill dropped for T20 World Cup; Kishan and Rinku make the cut

India reinstates Axar as the vice-captain in the 15-member squad, which will also feature in the five-match series against the Kiwis; Jitesh misses out as the selectors opt for a 'keeper who bats at the top of the order as back-up for Samson

CRICKET

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Job at hand: The 15 members entrusted with the task of defending India's crown. PTI

Shubman Gill – who was surprisingly recalled to the T20I set-up as vice-captain ahead of the Asia Cup – has been left out of India's squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, to be played in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

Gill was one of the notable omissions when the national senior selection committee, chaired by former India pacer Ajit Agarkar, met at the BCCI headquarters here on Saturday to finalise the squad for India's title defence.

Wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma also missed out.

The selectors opted for Sanju Samson as the preferred opener-wicketkeeper, bringing back Ishan Kishan as his back-up after a two-year absence from the national set-up. All-rounder Axar Patel was reinstated as vice-captain in place of Gill.

Explaining Gill's omission, Agarkar emphasised the importance of team combinations.

"Shubman, we know what a quality player he is. Perhaps he is short of a few runs at the moment," Agarkar said during a 20-minute media interaction that was also attended by skipper Suryakumar Yadav and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia.

"He was unfortunate to miss out on the last T20 World Cup as well because we went for a different combination. This is about combinations more than anything else."

Agarkar added that the selectors felt a wicket-keeper opening the batting provided greater balance. "We felt a 'keeper at the top gives us a lot more solidity everywhere else in the team to play different combinations. There are only 15 spots. Someone has to miss out, and this time it is him. It is not because he is not a good player," he said. On Jitesh's exclusion, Agarkar said the selectors narrowed their options to like-for-like 'keeper-openers once Gill was ruled out.

"If a 'keeper is going to bat at the top, our thought was to have another 'keeper as cover, just in case. At the moment, Jitesh was there and hasn't done too much wrong," Agarkar explained, while noting that Axar had previously served as vice-captain when Gill was not part of the T20I side.

With Jitesh missing out, Rinku Singh – who was unfortunate to miss the cut in 2024 – returned as the designated finisher. The squad also features four spinners, two of them all-rounders, alongside the pace trio of Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana.

Saikia confirmed that no standby players were named, citing logistical ease with the tournament being co-hosted in India. "Flying in replacements, if required, will not be a problem," he said.

The same 15-member World Cup squad will feature in the five T20Is against New Zealand.

The squad: Suryakumar Yadav (Capt.), Axar Patel (Vice-capt.), Abhishek Sharma, Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma, Hardik Pandya, Shivam Dube, Rinku Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthy, Washington Sundar and Ishan Kishan (wk).

Will get over lean patch soon, says Suryakumar

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav on Saturday acknowledged that his lean patch with the bat has lasted longer than expected, but expressed confidence that he will regain form ahead of the T20 World Cup.

"This patch has stretched a bit too long," said Suryakumar. "I am sure everyone has seen this in their respective careers. I will get over it soon. I know what to do and where things are going wrong."

The 35-year-old has struggled for runs in 2025, managing just 218 in 21 T20Is without a single fifty. This is in stark contrast to his numbers till 2024 when he had four T20I hundreds and 21 fifties.

Suryakumar said the five T20Is against New Zealand would provide a big opportunity for him. "I have got some time to work on it. We have the New Zealand series coming up and the World Cup as well. You'll definitely see Surya is back," he said.

Ajit Agarkar, too, backed the captain. "Hopefully, come the World Cup, he will be the No. 1 batter in the world again".

Kishan's inclusion — a reward for consistency

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Kishan. FILE PHOTO: M. PERIASAMY

Two Decembers ago, Ishan Kishan found himself in the headlines for the wrong reasons. The wicketkeeper-batter had reportedly sought a break from India's set-up citing mental fatigue, only to be spotted holidaying overseas. The episode was the starting point in a series of events that culminated in him being stripped of his BCCI annual contract.

Fast forward to Saturday, and less than 48 hours after leading Jharkhand to a historic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph – the State's maiden BCCI title in senior cricket– Kishan was back in the news for all the right reasons.

Twenty-five months after his last international appearance, the left-hander was named in India's squad for the Men's T20 World Cup.

Chief selector Ajit Agarkar cited form and role clarity as key factors behind the recall. "He bats at the top in white-ball cricket and has been in good form. He has played for India before and has a double hundred in one-day cricket," Agarkar said.

"He wasn't in the Indian team because there were players like Dhruv Jurel and Rishabh Pant ahead of him. We felt a 'keeper at the top gives us more solidity."

That Kishan was firmly on the selectors' radar was evident in Pune on Saturday. Not only did he register his second century of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy – taking his tally to 517 runs at a strike rate of 197.32 – he was also seen in a conversation with two national selectors shortly after lifting the trophy.

Kishan's recall, much like Karun Nair's return to the Test side for the England tour, sends a strong message to domestic cricketers grinding it out across the country. Consistent excellence remains difficult to ignore. The onus now shifts to Kishan to justify the faith placed in him and complete a redemption arc few would have predicted two years ago.

India underlines its T20I dominance

SA IN INDIA

Ashwin Achal
AHMEDABAD

In a different league: India's current T20I team is close to being the best ever, feels Conrad. VIJAY SONEJI

The five T20Is against South Africa served as an indicator of where the Indian team stands ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. An efficient 3-1 win sent all the right signals, adding weight to India's reputation as a strong favourite to defend the title.

South Africa coach Shukri Conrad took this assessment to a new level, stating that this Indian side is "certainly close" to being the best T20I unit ever assembled. "You look at the way they bat - they constantly put bowlers under pressure from ball one. They have match-winners with the ball too. I can't think of a better side, so they must be right up there (as the best T20I team of all time)," Conrad said after the visitors' 30-run loss to India in the fifth T20I on Friday.

Hyperbole it may be, but Conrad is certainly right about India possessing a wealth of match-winners. Abhishek Sharma could not get a fifty, but his series strike-rate of 174.57 fits perfectly with the slam-bang approach needed in the PowerPlay.

Tilak Varma excelled at No. 3, recording two fifties at a quick pace to emerge as the highest run-scorer. Hardik Pandya has been fearsome as a finisher, as seen in his explosive 25-ball 63 here.

In an indicator of India's tremendous reserve strength, Sanju Samson made the most of Shubman Gill's absence. With Gill being dropped for the World Cup, the Abhishek-Samson opening combination is primed for fireworks. The bowling unit is similarly stacked. Varun Chakaravarthy continues to bamboozle, evidenced by the South African batters often completely failing to read his finger spin.

Arshdeep Singh is a tad inconsistent, but when he gets it right, like he did in the third outing, he is near unplayable. Bumrah's exceptional two for 17 at Ahmedabad emphasised his ability to turn a match on its head. The fast bowler continues to be India's saviour when the chips are down, be it in the middle or death overs. Harshit Rana, the third seamer, can trouble the best with his hard length.

It is only Suryakumar Yadav's long struggle that causes major concern.

At the Narendra Modi Stadium, Tilak advised his skipper to take his time in the middle, but it did not work. "I told him to middle a few balls, wait and be calm. I told him that if he can find the gaps from the middle of the bat, then the confidence will return. After that, you can hit big shots. But unfortunately, it was not his day," Tilak said.

The southpaw, like the rest of the country, is keen to see the swashbuckling Suryakumar of old return soon. "Everyone is waiting for that one innings. If he gets that one innings, then everyone knows how dangerous he can be".

India-SA T20I series in numbers

BATTING	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Tilak	4	187	73	131.69	2
De Kock	4	156	90	181.39	2
Hardik	3	142	63	186.84	2
Markram	4	110	61	122.22	1

BOWLING	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W
Varun	4	10	4/53	7.46	1
Ngidi	4	6	3/31	7.69	0
Baartman	3	5	4/24	8.95	1
Arshdeep	4	5	2/13	9.14	0

India, Sri Lanka start preparations for next year's women's T20 World Cup

Anirudh Velamuri
VISAKHAPATNAM

Staying relaxed: Smriti and Sneh have fun during a training session while Jemimah hones her fielding skills on the eve of the first T20I. K.R. DEEPAK

Just over a month after Harmanpreet Kaur led her side to glory in the Women's ODI World Cup, attention now turns to the shortest format of the game, with all efforts tuned towards next year's marquee T20 World Cup. India boasts a strong record against Sri Lanka, winning 20 of their 26 T20I encounters so far. The island nation, however, can draw some encouragement from the fact that the series begins at the same venue where it last defeated India, back in 2014.

The epochal Asia Cup final triumph against the host in 2024 will also be a source of motivation.

A little over a year ago, India exited the T20 World Cup, held in the UAE, in the group stage. Two series victories in the format (2-1 vs West Indies at home and 3-2 vs England away) since have healed some of the wounds before the confetti and laurels of the ODI World Cup triumph.

The road to the latest edition of the T20 World Cup for India also includes two three-match series against its two biggest title rivals: Australia (February) and defending champion New Zealand (May-June).

The Women in Blue's World Cup-winning squad largely features against Sri Lanka. Radha Yadav and Uma Chetry have made way for youngsters Vaishnavi Sharma (left-arm spinner) and G. Kamalini (keeper-batter).

Sri Lanka's 2024 T20 World Cup sojourn was dreadful. It returned without a win and has played only one series since, a 1-1 draw against New Zealand away.

The Lankans have opted for a new-look outfit against India, with fresh names eager to make a mark, including 17-year-old ambidextrous spinner Shashini Gimhani and left-arm spinner Nimesha Madushani. As the focus shifts from celebration to calibration, the next 10 days will be about answers rather than outcomes. For India, it's about fine-tuning a champion side. For Sri Lanka, it's about laying new foundations. Either way, the countdown to England has well and truly begun.

The teams (from): India: Harmanpreet Kaur (Capt.), Smriti Mandhana (Vice-capt.), Deepti Sharma, Sneh Rana, Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Harleen Deol, Amanjot Kaur, Arundhati Reddy, Kranti Gaud, Renuka Thakur, Richa Ghosh, G. Kamalini, Sree Charani, Vaishnavi Sharma.

Sri Lanka: Chamari Athapaththu (Capt.), Harshitha Samarawickrama (Vice-capt.), Hasini Perera, Vishmi Gunaratne, Nilakshika Silva, Kavisha Dilhari, Imesha Dulani, Kaushini Nuthyangana, Malsha Shehani, Inoka Ranaweera, Shashini Gimhani, Nimesha Madushani, Kawya Kavindi, Rashmika Sewwandi, Malki Madara.

Match starts at 7 p.m.

INBRIEF

2026 will be the final year on the tour, says Wawrinka

Three-time major winner Stan Wawrinka says 2026 will be his last year on tour. "One last push," Wawrinka posted on social media on Friday. "Every book needs an ending. It's time to write the final chapter of my career as a professional tennis player. 2026 will be my last year on tour."

Satwik-Chirag lose in BWF World Tour Finals semifinals

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty bowed out of the BWF World Tour Finals after losing 21-10, 17-21 13-21 in the semifinals to China's Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in Hangzhou on Saturday.

Sanjay, Van Doren co-captains at Kalinga Lancers

Vedanta Kalinga Lancers on Saturday appointed India drag-flicker Sanjay and Belgium stalwart Arthur Van Doren as co-captains ahead of the Hero Hockey India League 2026. Kalinga Lancers will begin their campaign against Ranchi Royals on January 4 in Chennai.

LIVE TELECAST

Men's U-19 Asia Cup (final): Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 10.30 a.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: FanCode, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 8 & 10 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 10 p.m.
New Zealand vs West Indies: 3rd Test, day 5 ,Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 3.30 a.m. (Monday)

Australia just four wickets away from clinching series

Cummins and Lyon scalp three each to reduce England to 207 for six on day four; the visiting side needs 228 more for a record-breaking chase

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
ADELAIDE

An unrelenting Australia was four wickets from retaining the Ashes at close of play on day four of the third Test on Saturday as England clung to the dying hope that it could chase a record 435 to save the series.

England clawed its way to 207 for six to take it to a fifth day in Adelaide with Will Jacks on 11 and Jamie Smith two, still 228 runs from its target.

The visiting side lost big guns Zak Crawley (85), Joe Root (39), Harry Brook (30), and Ben Stokes (five) in the final session with Nathan Lyon and Pat Cummins doing the damage.

Smart work

Australia wicketkeeper Alex Carey, who made a century in the first innings, had another good day with his quick hands stumping Crawley off Lyon.

England must win to keep the five-match series alive after being crushed by eight wickets at Perth and Brisbane.

With attendance over the first four days swelling to more than 200,000 – a record for the Adelaide Oval which has been hosting Tests since 1884 – it faces a daunting task.

No team has ever chased down more than 316 at the venue while the biggest successful run chase in Test history was 418 by the West Indies against Australia at St. Johns in 2003. Earlier, England took six wickets before lunch to wrap up Australia's second innings for 349 with Travis Head slamming 170 and Carey 72.

Paying the price: Brook comes second best to Lyon after attempting a reverse sweep. GETTY IMAGES

SCOREBOARD

Australia —1st Innings: 371.
England — 1st Innings: 286.
Australia — 2nd Innings: Travis Head c Crawley b Tongue 170, Jake Weatherald lbw b Carse 1, Marnus Labuschagne c Brook b Tongue 13, Usman Khawaja c Smith b Jacks 40, Cameron Green c Brook b Tongue 7, Alex Carey c Brook b Stokes 72, Josh Inglis c Smith b Tongue 10, Pat Cummins c Brook b Carse 6, Mitchell Starc (not out) 7, Nathan Lyon lbw b Carse 0, Scott Boland c & b Archer 1; Extras (b-4, lb-10, nb-5, w-3): 22; Total (in 84.4 overs): 349.
Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-53, 3-139, 4-149, 5-311, 6-329, 7-335, 8-344, 9-344.
England bowling: Archer 12.4-2-20-1, Carse 20-1-80-3, Tongue 18-0-70-4, Jacks 19-0-107-1, Root 8-0-32-0, Stokes 7-0-26-1.
England — 2nd Innings (target 435): Zak Crawley st. Carey b Lyon 85, Ben Duckett c Labuschagne b Cummins 4, Ollie Pope c Labuschagne b Cummins 17, Joe Root c Carey b Cummins 39, Harry Brook b Lyon 30, Ben Stokes b Lyon 5, Jamie Smith (batting) 2, Will Jacks (batting) 11; Extras (b-4, lb-7, nb-2, w-1): 14; Total (for six wkts. in 63 overs): 207.
Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-31, 3-109, 4-177, 5-189, 6-194.
Australia bowling: Starc 10-3-35-0, Cummins 10-3-24-3, Boland 12-3-23-0, Lyon 18-3-64-3, Green 3-0-16-0, Head 10-3-34-0.

AIFF turns to State associations

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The AIFF rejected the proposal for a club-owned league model and decided to go with its State associations to find a way to organise the Indian Super League.

The decision came during the Federation's annual general meeting, which took up for discussion a proposal by the majority of the clubs from the ISL who decided to form a consortium to run the top league in the coming seasons.

The Federation instead decided to appoint a three-member committee to find a solution in keeping with the provisions in the new constitution approved by the Supreme Court.

The new committee will be composed of members from the three States – Kerala FA president Navas Meeran, Goa FA president Caitano Fernandes and Indian FA (Bengal) secretary Anirban Datta.

The AIFF deputy secretary general M. Satyanarayan will be the ex-officio member in the committee, which will hold discussions with representatives from five clubs, including Chennaiyin FC, Mumbai City FC, Delhi SC, NorthEast United FC, and Bagan between Dec. 22 to 29.

The AGM also constituted a three-member committee – comprising Andhra Pradesh FA president Kotagiri Sridhar, Mizoram FA secretary Lalrengpuia, and Punjab FA secretary Harjinder Singh – to address the issues regarding the organisation of the I-League.

Maurizzi wins it for Continental Kings

Star turn: Maurizzi outlasted Murzin to earn a victory for Continental Kings. GCL

GCL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
MUMBAI

It was down to the battle between the two prodigies. MarcAndria Maurizzi won that battle against Volodar Murzin to ensure that Triveni Continental Kings won a tense match against Fyers American Gambits in the Global Chess League on Saturday.

After Alexandar Kosteniuk's defeat to Teodora Injac, Maurizzi had to win. On the top board, Alireza Firouzja was held to a draw by Hikaru Nakamura, and the second-board game between Wei Yi and Vladimir Artemiev was also drawn. Vidt Gujrathi and Zhu Jiner drew their games, with Richard Rapport and Bibisara Assaubayeva respectively.

After the 8-7 victory in front of a full house at the Royal Opera House, Continental Kings, the winner of both the previous editions of the league, remained on top of the table with 18 match points and 78 game points.

upGrad Mumba Masters is in second place with 12 match points and 68 game points. Following Mumba closely is Ganges Grandmasters in the third place with 12 match points and 66 game points.

The results: PBG Alaskan Knights bt Ganges Grandmasters 9-7 (D. Gukesh drew with Viswanathan Anand; Arjun Erigaisi bt Vincent Keymer; Leinier Dominguez drew with Javokhir Sindarov; Kateryna Lagno lost to Polina Shuvalova; Sarasadat Khademalsharieh bt Stavroula Tsolakidou; Daniel Dardha drew with Ranuak Sadhwani).

Fyers American Gambits lost to Triveni Continental Kings 7-8 (Hikaru Nakamura drew with Alireza Firouzja; Vladimir Artemiev drew with Wei Yi; Richard Rapport drew with Vidit Gujrathi; Bibisara Assaubayeva drew with Zhu Jiner; Teodora Injac bt Alexandra Kosteniuk; Volodar Murzin lost to MarcAndria Maurizzi.)

Fyers American Gambits bt upGrad Mumba Masters 16-1 (Nakamura bt Maxime Vachier-Lagrave; Artemiev bt Wesley So; Rapport bt Shakhriyar Mamedyarov; Assaubayeva bt Koneru Humpy; Injac bt D. Harika; Murzin drew with Bardiya Daneshvar).

Ganges Grandmasters bt Alpine SG Pipers 10-9 (Anand drew with Caruana; Keymer bt Giri; Sindarov bt Praggnanandhaa; Shuvalova lost to Hou; Tsolakidou bt Batsiashvili; Raunak lost to Mendonca).

(The writer is in Mumbai at the invitation of Tech Mahindra).

Sethu gets past Kickstart FC; honours even between Gokulam and Nita FA

IWL

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Former champion Sethu FC began its campaign on a confident note as it registered a 2-1 win over Kickstart FC in the opening match of the Indian Women's League at the AIFF National Centre of Excellence here on Saturday.

In another match held at the Kalyani Stadium, Gokulam Kerala FC and Nita FA played out a 1-1 draw.

With defending champion East Bengal FC engaged in the SAFF women's Club championship, its opening match against Sreebhumi FC was postponed to a later date.

Sethu FC encountered an initial setback and conceded an early goal as Kickstart FC earned a penalty and took the lead through Babysana Devi's successful conversion from the spot.

Sethu regrouped quickly and restored parity in the 20th minute when Kaviya Pakkirisamy produced a fine solo effort to find the target for the former champion. Sethu continued to press for the lead, and the efforts paid off in the 50th minute when Malavika P. got the ball home from a set-piece situation.

Flying high: Garhwal's Sanfida exults after scoring against Sesa FA. DEBASISH BHADURI

The results: At Kalyani: Gokulam Kerala FC 1 (Cidalia Daniel Cuta 46) drew with Nita Football Academy 1 (Neha 40).

At NCE: Sethu FC 2 (Kaviya Pakkirisamy 20, Malavika P. 50) bt Kickstart FC 1 (Babysana Devi 12-pen); Garhwal United FC 3 (Lhingdeikim 12, Sanfida Nongrum 15, Deepika Pal 45+4) bt Sesa FA 1 (Sarjida Khatun 89).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Karnataka begins campaign in style

Karnataka opened its 2025-26 Santosh Trophy campaign with a 3-0 win over Lakshadweep at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Saturday.

Skipper Nikhil Raj Murugesh scored a first-half brace before Karthik Govind Swamy added a third deep into injury-time. **The results:** Karnataka 3 (Nikhil Raj Murugesh Kumar 8, 43, Karthik Govind Swamy 90+3) bt Lakshadweep 0; Services 4 (Abhishek Pawar 59, 64, Roshan Panna 67, J. Vijay 69) bt Goa 0.

Three points for Karnataka from draw

Karnataka settled for the three points that come with the first-innings lead as the Vijay Merchant Trophy (u-16) match against Baroda ended in a draw on Saturday.

The scores: Karnataka 234 in 91.3 overs & 237/5 in 81.5 overs (R. Rohith Reddy 106 n.o., J. Sukruth 100 n.o.) drew with Baroda 177 in 73 overs.

Remaining Mysore races cancelled

MYSURU: One of the two-year-old horses at Mysore Race Club Ltd that tested positive for Glanders, a contagious equine disease, succumbed to it. Following this, the Karnataka government, vide its notification dated December 19, has declared a two-kilometre radius around the club as a "Notified Area" in accordance with the National Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Glanders in India. Consequently, the remaining races of the ongoing Mysore races 2025-26 stand cancelled. The Turf Authorities of India has decided to postpone the Turf Invitation Cup weekend races to be held at the Mysore Race Club on Saturday, February 28, 2026 and Sunday, March 1, 2026, to a later date.

Aarav sets up win for Vidyashilp Academy

Aarav Gandhi's six-wicket haul (six for 24) was instrumental in Vidyashilp Academy's seven-wicket win over Frank Anthony Public School in the BT Ramaiah Shield U-14 first division tournament.

The scores: St. Joseph's IHS 207 in 37.1 overs (Khubaib Pendari 84, Aditya Nagaraj Gorthi 5/32) lost to Sri Kumaran Children's Home, CBSE 208/8 in 48.5 overs (Samar Modhe 66, Gauraansh Mehta 50).

Max Muller HS 251/6 in 50 overs (Rajveer Padam Mehta 59, M. Neeraj 57 n.o.) bt DPS, South 179/8 in 50 overs (Akarsh M. Appinakatte 78 n.o.).

Jain Heritage School 148 in 43 overs (Aarya Raj 82, Akhilesh Pradhan 3/21) lost to BGS NPS 149/3 in 34 overs.

DPS, North 151 in 47.2 overs (Tanush Mishra 78) lost to DPS, East 155/3 in 35.1 overs (Saurjyesh Das 71).

Frank Anthony PS 123 in 38.4 overs (Hridhay Lunkar 35, Aarav Gandhi 6/24) lost to Vidyashilp Academy 124/3 in 24.3 overs (Viren Sancheti 62 n.o.).

DPS, Electronic City 215/9 in 50 overs (R. Lalithesh 70, Arya Ayyappan 52) bt Presidency School, RT Nagar 179/8 in 50 overs.

Gopalan National School 230/9 in 50 overs (Syed Izyan Hussain 70, Eric Rupreo 53) lost to Holy Saint ES 231/3 in 36.4 overs (Pratham Satish 45, W. Akhieera Allan 104 n.o.).

Poorna Vikasa Vidyalaya 242 in 50 overs (P. Lithik Reddy 84, Raunak Kumar Singh 55, Shishir 5/47) bt St. Joseph's BHS 114 in 39.1 overs.

Reyansh triumphs

Reyansh Jalan defeated Vedant Vashisht 6-11, 11-7, 7-11, 11-9, 11-6 to win the boys' under-15 singles title at the CVL Shastry Memorial State table tennis championships on Saturday.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, No.4 BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

EE/KNNL/BDN-4/TA/PB-1/4701 Bhadra / Tender Notification No:14/2025-26 Dated: 17.12.2025

Short Term Tender Notification (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

Percentage Tenders by e-procurement portal in the prescribed form is invited by the undersigned on behalf of Managing Director, KNNL, Bangalore from the eligible Contractor under the Head of Account 4701 Bhadra. The No. of works is 04. The approximate cost of amount put to tender is varies from **Rs.18.61 Lakhs to Rs. 80.87 Lakhs.** The amount of EMD is varies from **Rs.46,600/-** to Rs.1,62,000/- (by kpp portal) contractors can access and submission of completed e-tendering documents from **19.12.2025 to 30.12.2025 upto 17.30 hours** in the website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Financial Bid will be opened on **31.12.2025** (For Sl No.1) and Technical Bid will be opened on **31.12.2025 at 17.30 hours** (For Sl No.2 to 4) and after obtaining approval of technical bid from competent authority Financial bid will be opened. Stipulated period for the completion of work is 04 and 06 Months (Including monsoon).For more conditions and details visit website **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** OR at undersigned in all working days during office hours on telephone No. 8660573513.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer. KNNL, No.4, BRLBC Division, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/SMG/No-106-12/zenkar/2025-26

CENTRE FOR e-GOVERNANCE
Room No.: 141, 1st Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building,Bengaluru-560 001. Ph: 080-22373840

No. CEG-15011/23/2020-PD(KSWAN)-CEG Date: 20.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

INVITATION FOR THE POST OF PROJECT MANAGER, KSWAN ON DEPUTATION BASIS

The Centre for e-Governance is a Society established by the Government of Karnataka under DPAR (e-Governance) and registered under Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960, invites applications from the eligible candidates for the post of **Project Manager, Karnataka State Wide Area Network (PM, KSWAN) on deputation basis in the pay scale of E-5 (CPSU) and above Rs. 32,000-58,000** or Equivalent. Candidates may refer (**https://ceg.karnataka.gov.in**) for details such as qualification, experience, submission of application, T&C etc.

Last Date for submission of application is 15 Days from the date of this advertisement.

Sd/-
Administrative Officer
Centre for e-Governance.

DIPR/CP/JA/4568/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, (MPED & Transport), Annex Building-2, Ground Floor, GBA Head Office Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/MPED/BCCC/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 20-12-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, MPED & Transport, BCCC, Bengaluru invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Construction of works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvement Works to IPP Meeting Hall 1st Floor, Malleshwaram. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (in Rs.): 1,61,40,852/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 2,42,500/-**
2	Providing Interior Work for Office Space 1st Floor in Newly Constructed Building behind Dr. Rajkumar Glass Houses in GBA Head Office Premises. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (in Rs.): 76,67,125/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,53,500/-**
3	Repair Works in Annex Building 2 & 3 in GBA Head Office Premises. **Approximated Amount Put to Tender (Excluding GST) (in Rs.): 76,66,248/-, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,53,500/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21-12-2025. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries is **23-12-2025 before 4.00 PM through KPP Portal Only. 3)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **24-12-2025 at 4.30 PM in the Office of the Chief Engineer (Zone-2), 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, BCCC Head Office Premises, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. 4)** Tenders must be Submitted Online through KPP Portal **on or beore 17.00 Hours on 31-12-2025. 5)** Technical Bids will be Opened on the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in at the Office of the Executive Engineer, MPED & Transport Division on 01-01-2026 at 17.30 Hours.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, MPED & Transport, BCCC.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Loss of Original Document)

This is to inform the General Public that my client **Sri.A.SHANMUGAM, S/o. Late M.P.Arunachalam Mudaliar,** Aged about 68 years, Residing at No.39, 8th Cross, Lakshmipuram, Halasuru, Bangalore-560 008 [Aadhar No.3436 0821 8045], is the true and absolute owner of the Schedule Property he having acquired the same by way of inheritance from his father Late **M.P.Arunachalam Mudaliar and also by virtue of the Registered Release deed dated 11/01/2021, Registered as Document No.KRI-1-07965/2020-21, of Book-1, Stored in CD No.KRID1145, Registered in the office of the Additional Sub Registrar K.R.Pura, Bangalore executed by his younger sister Smt. J. Shanthi.**

My client informs me that the **Original Sale Deed dated 09/02/1959, Registered as Document No.4316/1958-59, of Book-1 Vol.95, Written at pages 79 to 83, Registered in the office of Sub- Registrar Bangalore South Taluk** under which the Schedule Property was acquired by my client father i.e Late M.P.Arunachalam Mudaliar from one Sri.B.M.Ramaswamy, S/o B. M. Muniswamy, has been misplaced or lost in transit on 17/12/2025 while he was taking the said Document for photo copy/Xerox at C.M.H Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560 038 and an online police complaint has been lodged by my client to the said effect **vide Lost Article Report No.1963151/2025 to the Indiranagar Police, Bangalore City on 18/12/2025.**

The General Public is/are hereby requested to hand over the said original document to my client or to the under signed if they find the same and they will be well rewarded and the Public are also cautioned not to deal with any strangers in respect of the Schedule Property other than my client who is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and if done so they will be doing so at their own risk and consequences.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the Immovable Property bearing **Site No.73, Formed in Property No.109, Katha No.109/73. Situated at Byyappanahalli @ Kayamgutta Byyappanahalli Village, Krishnarajapura Hobli, Erstwhile Bangalore South Taluk, Now Bangalore East Taluk, Now comes under the jurisdiction of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Bangalore and measuring East to West: 30 Feet and North to South: 40 Feet, in all measuring 1200 Square Feet, together with the building measuring 900 Square Feet, with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface** and bounded;

On the East by : Site No. 72; **On the West by :** Site No. 74;
On the North by : 15 Feet Road; **On the South by :** 15 Feet Road.

VELLANKI RAVI, Advocate, **Dated: 20/12/2025.**
#321, 1st Floor, C.M.H Road, Indiranagar, **Bangalore**
Bangalore – 560 038., **(Mobile No. 91 9844121658)**